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## Introduction to Statistics

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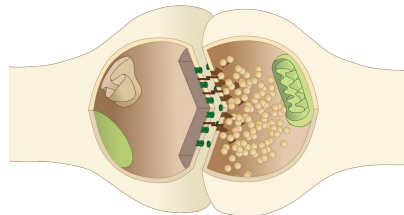


The slide features a background of a network graph with nodes and connecting lines in shades of purple and blue. The Microsoft logo is in the top left corner. The title 'Introduction to Statistics' is in a large, bold, black font. Below the title, the presenter's name and title are listed. A portrait of Shep Sheppard is on the right side of the slide.

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## Synaptic Fatigue

**Synaptic fatigue**, or short-term [synaptic depression](#), is an activity-dependent form of short term [synaptic plasticity](#) that results in the temporary inability of [neurons](#) to fire and therefore transmit an input signal.



Power Point presentations are known to cause this

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## Session goals

- Introduce you to Statistics
- This is not a two semester presentation
- To provide you with a familiarity with statistic topics you may encounter
- For you to leave not terrified of Stats

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## Agenda

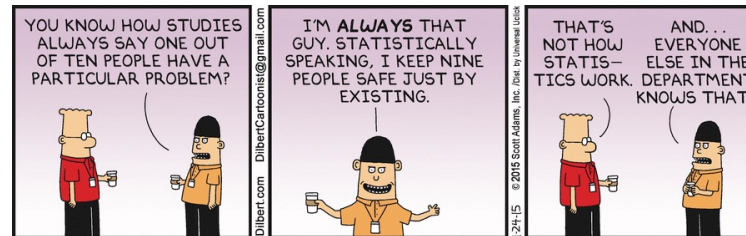
What's the point of Stats?  
Vocabulary  
Types of Studies, why they matter  
Bias  
Sampling  
Hypothesis  
P-Value, why it can be a bad measure

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## What's the point of Statistics?

- Identify a question or a problem
- Collect relevant data on the topic
- Analyze the data
- Form a conclusion



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## Stats the Vocabulary

- Treatment Group
  - The group you are experimenting on and monitoring
- Control Group
  - The group you are not experimenting on and monitoring
- Be aware of ethics of both groups, even if it is A/B testing
  - Tuskegee experiments
  - OKCupid
  - Facebook

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## Stats the Vocabulary (Textbook)

- Case
  - Data folks know this as a row of data
- Variable
  - You may know this as a column of data
- Data Matrix
  - Is a table made of Cases and Variables or rows and columns

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## Stats the Vocabulary

- Population
  - All the data
  - A population in studies is denoted as "N" (Upper case N) eg.  $N=370,000,000$
- Census
  - A study of everything in a give population (N)
- Sample
  - A portion of a population
  - A sample is denoted as lowercase "n"  $n=3000$

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## Stats the Vocabulary

- Case

- In statistics is a single row of data
- This can also be a single case for a patient
- Imagine capturing 20 variables about a patient and putting them together in a row.

- Parameter

- A numerical quantity that tells us something about a **population**
- E.g.. Quantity of specific ethnicity, number of high school graduates, proportion of singles.

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## Stats the Vocabulary - Qualitative Data

- Qualitative Data, Categorical or Category

- Defined by Which or What
- What color,
- What dog breed,
- What grade,
- Which model of car,
- What county Precinct number
- Can be a number even an ordered number (ordinal) but would not make sense to do arithmetic against it.

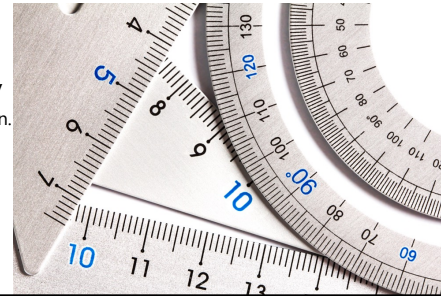


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## Stats the Vocabulary - Quantitative Data

- Quantitative – Is always a number, can do math against it
  - Continuous – Measuring Data, asks how much
    - What is your height? 5'11"
    - What is your Weight?
    - What is the weight of your vehicle?
    - What is the MPG of your vehicle?
  - Discrete – Counting Data, asks How Many
    - How many people are on the bus? Never half a person.
    - How many cars in the driveway? Never half a car.
    - How may books do you own? One book per ISBN.



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## Stats the Vocabulary – Qual, Quan, Review

- Qualitative - Categorical, or a Category
- Quantitative – I can do math against it
  - Continuous – Measuring Data, asks how much
  - Discrete – Counting Data, asks How Many



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## Stats – Data Collection

- Population vs. Sample
  - What is the average lead content of public water in the US?
    - How do you get this number?
    - What is the target population?
    - Do you have the time and money to sample every public water supply in the US?
  - How long does it take to complete a PhD?
    - How do you get this number?
    - What is the target population?
    - Do you have access to every PhD programs data?
- This is where samples come in!

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## Stats - Anecdotal Evidence

- A person received lead poisoning from drinking tap water, therefore, all tap water must have high levels of lead.
- I once met someone who completed a graduate degree in 12 years, therefore it takes a really long time to complete a graduate program.
- I heard on the news that something in my refrigerator is going to kill me, therefore everything in my refrigerator will kill me.
- I heard on the news that if you feed a rat one pound of saccharine a day it will get cancer, therefore saccharine causes cancer.
- It snowed in Greenland today, global warming must be a hoax.

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## Types of Studies - Observational

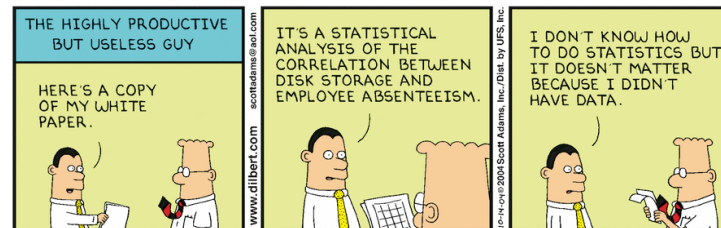
- Observational - You are watching, or using data already collected
  - Data collected in such a way it does not interfere with the subjects response.
  - Survey data – Framingham Heart study, Harvard Happiness.
  - Cohort studies - follow a group of people for years, decades, generations.
  - Retrospective Study - Performing a study on data collected in the past.
  - **Causation cannot be implied from observational studies – EVER!**

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## Types of Studies - Experimental

- Experimental – Derive causal connection via treatment groups
  - Control and control groups– Literally have full control of factors in each group, treatment and placebo as well as other factors related to health, diet, exercise, etc...
  - Randomization – True randomization of treatment and control, if half the participants are of a specific ethnicity, it should be equal proportion among treatment groups.
  - Replication – The more cases the better



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## Types of Studies – Prospective/Retrospective

- A Prospective study is a Long term study that follows a cohort over a period of time.
  - A baseline is gathered and subjects are followed to observe changes from the baseline over time.
  - Framingham Heart Study is one of the more famous. Started in 1948 and is currently on its third generation of participants.
- Retrospective uses existing data gathered for reasons other than research
  - A cohort that has a common exposure factor is compared to a group that was not exposed.
  - Framingham Heart Study study is frequently used in Retrospective studies.

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## Bias

- Bias - When a statistical result is different from the population due to the selection criteria.
- Funding Bias – Biases that exist in favor of the studies sponsor. (Sugar industry and Harvard)
- Reporting Bias – Certain observations are more likely to be reported, more news worthy.
- Exclusion Bias – Throwing out specific cases or variables from a study.
- Recall Bias – Participants inability to remember correctly
- Observer Bias – Researchers own personal bias influence the study
- Cognitive Bias – Researchers deviation from reality based on their own subjective social reality.

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## Common Sampling Methods

- Simple Random Sampling
  - Randomly select X values from population
- Stratified Sampling
  - Group population by some factor then randomly select X random values from each group
- Cluster Sampling
  - Divided the population into X clusters, then randomly select X entire clusters.
- In the real world, a combination of all three is best.



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## Mean Median, Mode, Quartiles

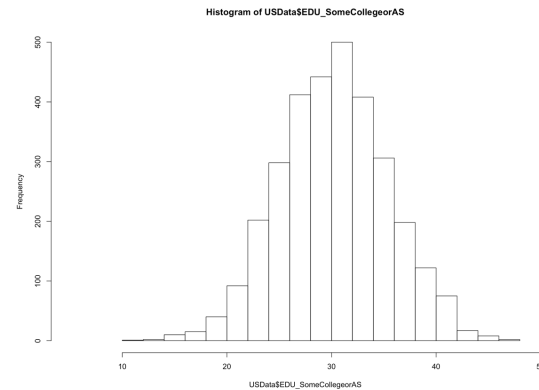
- Mean or average
  - The Sum of the values divided by the number of values summed
  - Typically known as the central value
- Median
  - The sorted middle value or average of the two middle values
- Mode
  - The number that shows up most frequently
- Inter Quartile
  - ranked set of data values are the three points that divide the data set into four equal groups, each group comprising a quarter of the data, 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>.

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## Central Tendency

Generally speaking, data likes to be centered in a specific location. The more data you have the more likely it is to be centered, or piled up.



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## Standard Deviation and Variance

### • Variance

- Variance is the expected value of the squared deviation of a random variable for its mean. Looking at the formula is easier.

- **Variance =  $\text{sum}((x - \text{mean}(x))^2) / (\text{length}(x) - 1)$ .**

### • Standard Deviation

- Measure of the variation or dispersion of the data. This has a nice easy formula as well, and it is based on variance.

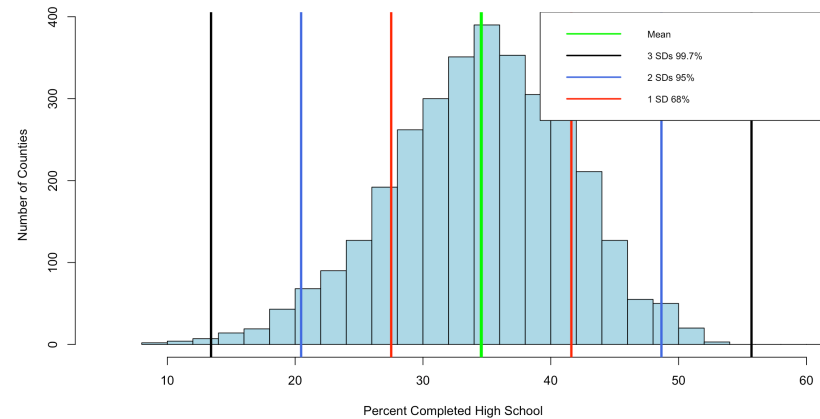
- **Standard Deviation =  $\text{sqrt}(\text{sum}((x - \text{mean}(x))^2) / (\text{length}(x) - 1))$ .**

- It's the square root of the variance, how cool is that, you only need to know one formula!  $\text{sqrt}(\text{VARIANCE})$

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## Normal Distribution and Standard Deviation



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## Standard Deviation, Why it matters

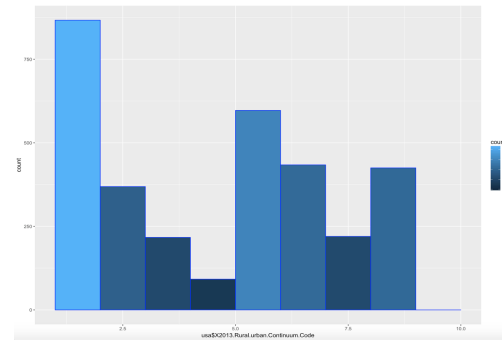
- Normally distributed data or mound shaped data, which happens to be most data, typically piles up within 2 standard deviations of the mean, this is called the Empirical Rule.
- The Empirical Rule states that
  - 68% of the data will be within 1 Standard Deviation of the mean
  - 95% of the data will be within 2 Standard Deviations of the mean
  - 99.7% of the data will be within 3 Standard Deviations of the Mean
- Looking at the last slide, this seems to hold true...

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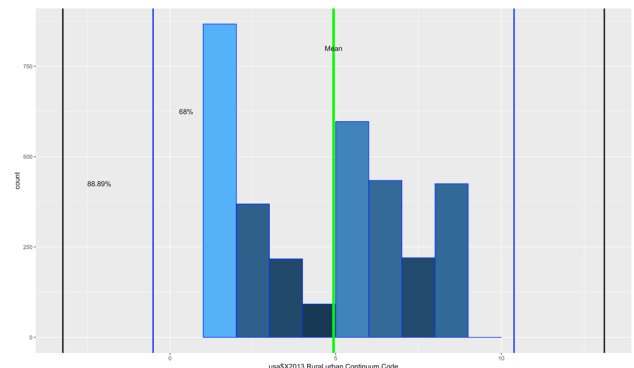
## Except when...

- Sometimes you will see data that falls outside of the 2 Standard Deviation, 95% rule, typically in Bi-Modal data
- Bi or multi-modal data will show two or more distributions in the data
- In these cases, Chebyshev's rule will apply



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## Chebyshev Rule



- With Chebyshev's rule, 75% will fall within 2 Standard Deviations and 89.89% within 3 Standard Deviations

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## Why Does it matter?

- The fact that data follows a pattern, and large volumes of data follow a predictable pattern, we can use this to make predictions about future data.
- Next is to determine if there are significant correlations between multiple vectors of data.
- For instance
  - Education level and poverty in a county
  - Miles Per gallon and Vehicle weight
  - Opioid Use and Unemployment

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**Insert 6 weeks of Statistics here, of which we will be skipping today!**

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## Hypothesis Testing

- A statistical technique used to evaluate competing claims.
- $H_0$  Known as the NULL hypothesis, indicates no effect or no relationship between the variables, the skeptics perspective.
- $H_a$  Known as the alternative hypothesis, the assumption to be made if the NULL is rejected. This can take many forms.
- For instance:
  - $H_0$  An Unemployment rate of a county during the 2016 election had **no** impact who won a county.
  - $H_a$  An Unemployment rate of a county during the 2016 election **did** impact who won a county.

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## P-value

- Used to prove or disprove statistical significance.
- P-value is also known as the test of significance, values can be as low as you want .0001 – through a number you chose.
- .05 is the generic standard. Meaning, there is less than a 5% of this occurring naturally or, 5% chance of making a mistake.
- Before selecting .05 as your level of significance make sure it is correct for you,
- This may be a problem if the impact is life or death, for a drug trial 95% efficacy rate may not be good enough if 5% of your data indicates death, you may want to use a much smaller p-value.
- In Test data this can be hacked as well by throwing out the data we don't want such as misbehaving variables or outliers.
- If your hypothesis cannot be reproduced, throw it out!

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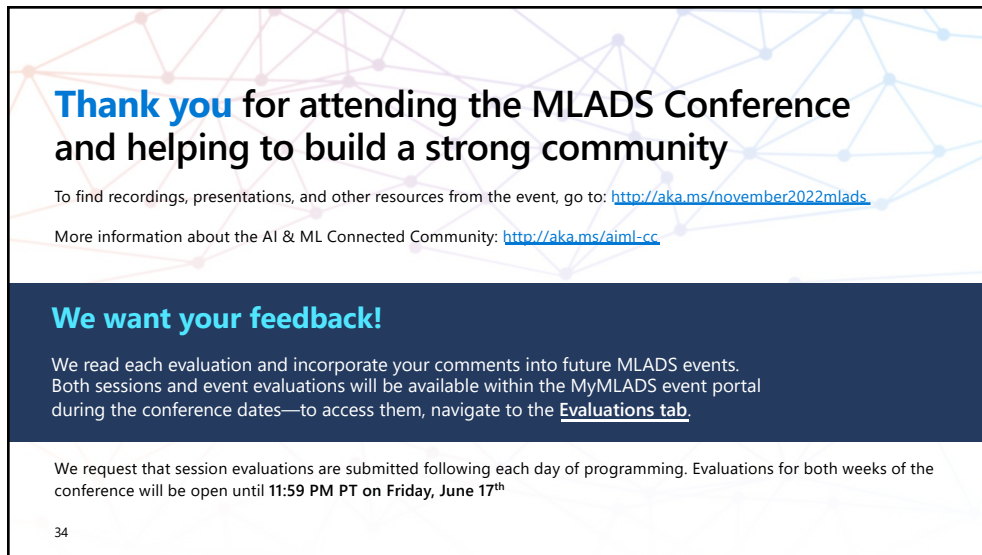


**Q&A**

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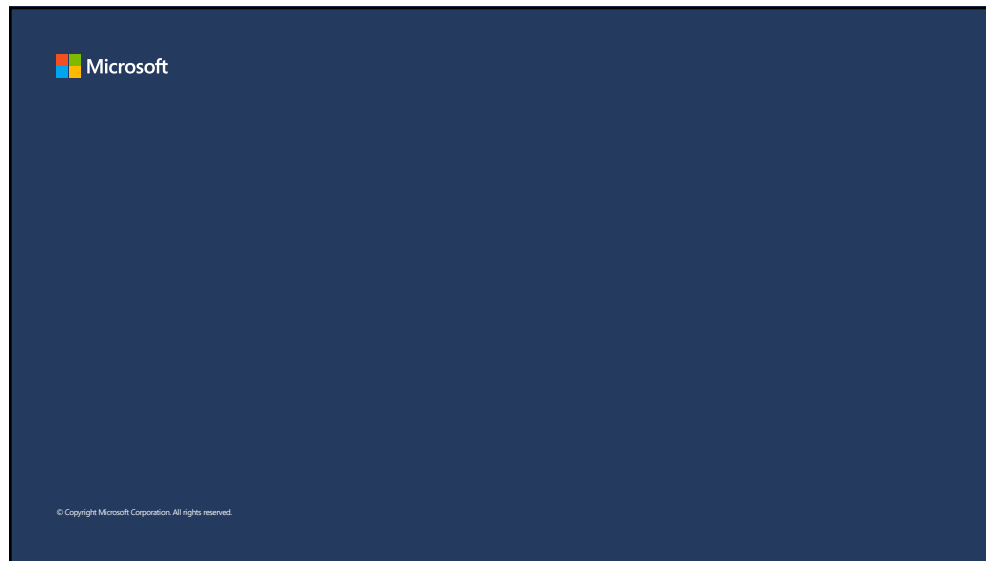
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