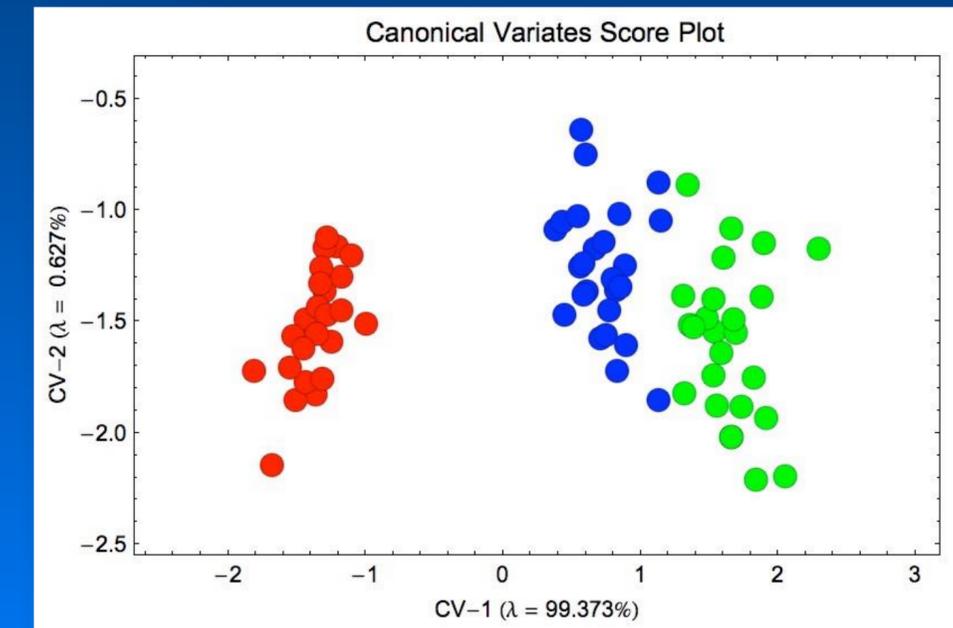
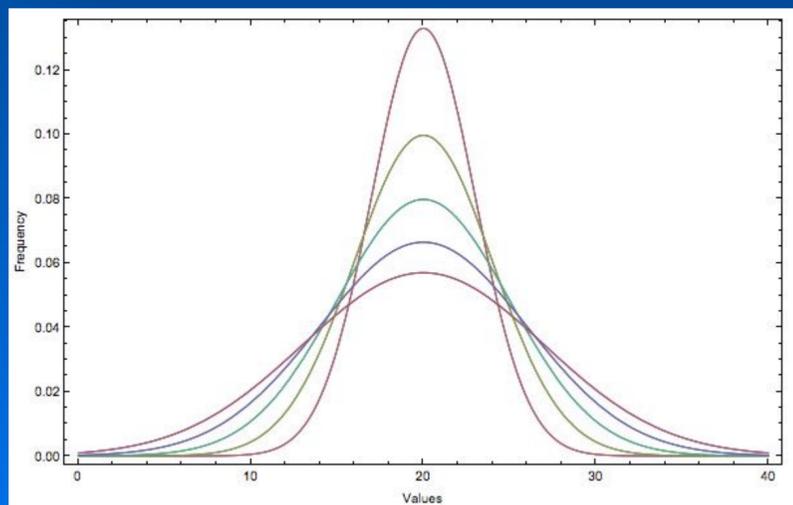
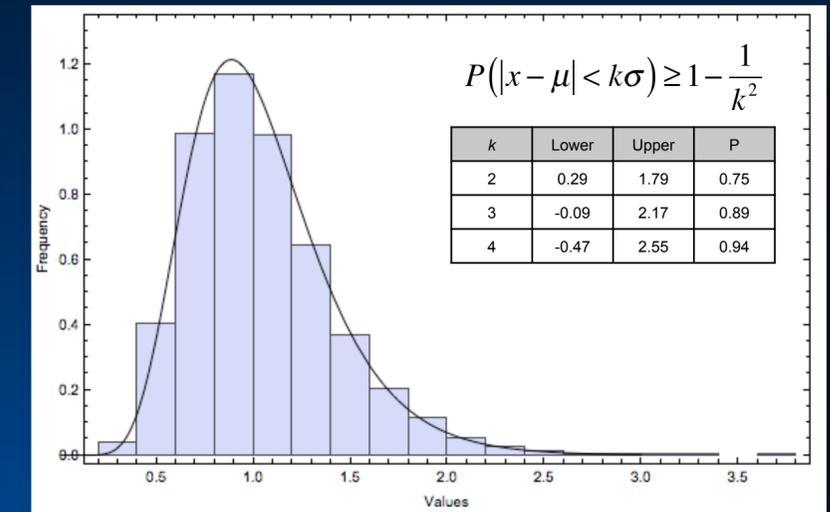
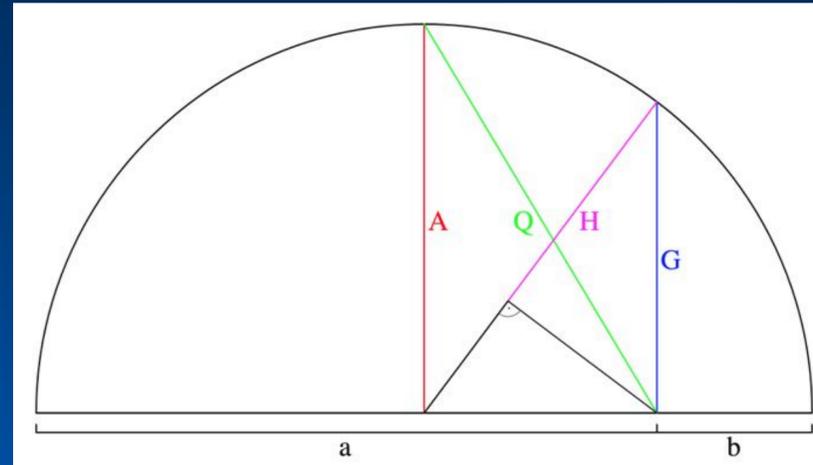


# Statistics & Probability for Earth Scientists

## - A Review?



Prof. Norman MacLeod  
School of Earth Sciences & Engineering, Nanjing University



# Definitions of “Statistics”

---

- Any list of numerical data.
- The science of making effective use of numerical data relating to individual samples, groups of samples or experiments.
- A set of concepts, rules, and procedures that help us to:
  - Organize numerical information in the form of tables, graphs, and charts;
  - Understand statistical techniques underlying decisions that affect our lives and well-being; and make informed decisions.
- The set of possible values for a random variable together with a probability measure quantifying the likelihood of those values.
- The mathematics of the collection, organization, and interpretation of numerical data, especially the analysis of population characteristics by inference from sampling.

# Statistics as Data

## Baseball Cards



**TOPPS 50**

**MICKEY MANTLE**  
N. Y. YANKEES OUTFIELD

Ht: 6'0" Wt: 201 Bats: Both  
Throws: Right Born: Oct. 20, 1931  
Home: Dallas, Texas

*MICKEY'S 18 WORLD SERIES HOMERS IS A RECORD*

**COMPLETE MAJOR LEAGUE BATTING RECORD**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG.	
1951	New York	A. L.	96	341	61	91	11	5	13	65	.287	
1952	New York	A. L.	142	549	94	171	37	7	23	87	.311	
1953	New York	A. L.	127	461	105	136	24	3	21	92	.295	
1954	New York	A. L.	146	543	129	163	17	12	27	102	.300	
1955	New York	A. L.	147	517	121	158	25	11	37	99	.306	
1956	New York	A. L.	150	533	132	188	22	5	52	130	.353	
1957	New York	A. L.	144	474	121	173	28	6	34	94	.365	
1958	New York	A. L.	150	519	127	158	21	1	42	97	.304	
1959	New York	A. L.	144	541	104	154	23	4	31	75	.283	
1960	New York	A. L.	153	527	119	145	17	6	40	94	.275	
1961	New York	A. L.	153	514	132	163	16	6	54	128	.317	
1962	New York	A. L.	123	377	96	121	15	1	30	89	.321	
1963	New York	A. L.	65	172	40	54	8	0	15	35	.314	
1964	New York	A. L.	143	465	92	141	25	2	35	111	.303	
1965	New York	A. L.	122	361	44	92	12	1	19	46	.255	
Major League Totals			15 Yrs.	2005	6894	1517	2108	301	70	473	1344	.306

©T.C.G. PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Collectable memorabilia of the players of various American baseball teams, usually printed on card stock, showing an image of the player on one side and their summary performance statistics on the other.

# Statistics as Data

**TOPPS 50**  
**MICKEY MANTLE**  
 N. Y. YANKEES OUTFIELD  
 Ht: 6'0" Wt: 201 Bats: Both  
 Throws: Right Born: Oct. 20, 1931  
 Home: Dallas, Texas

*MICKEY'S 18 WORLD SERIES HOMERS IS A RECORD*

**COMPLETE MAJOR LEAGUE BATTING RECORD**

YEAR	TEAM	LEA.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG.	
1951	New York	A. L.	98	341	61	91	11	5	13	65	.287	
1952	New York	A. L.	142	549	94	171	37	7	23	87	.311	
1953	New York	A. L.	127	461	105	136	24	3	21	92	.295	
1954	New York	A. L.	146	543	129	163	17	12	27	102	.300	
1955	New York	A. L.	147	517	121	158	25	11	37	99	.306	
1956	New York	A. L.	150	533	132	188	22	5	52	130	.353	
1957	New York	A. L.	144	474	121	173	28	6	34	94	.365	
1958	New York	A. L.	150	519	127	158	21	1	42	97	.304	
1959	New York	A. L.	144	541	104	154	23	4	31	75	.283	
1960	New York	A. L.	153	527	119	145	17	6	40	94	.275	
1961	New York	A. L.	153	514	132	163	16	6	54	128	.317	
1962	New York	A. L.	123	377	96	121	15	1	30	89	.321	
1963	New York	A. L.	65	172	40	54	8	0	15	35	.314	
1964	New York	A. L.	143	465	92	141	25	2	35	111	.303	
1965	New York	A. L.	122	361	44	92	12	1	19	46	.255	
Major League Totals			15 Yrs.	2005	6894	1517	2108	301	70	473	1344	.306

©T.C.G. PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Variable - a characteristic that may differ from one individual to another.

Datum - the qualitative or quantitative value of a variable (*pl.* data).

# Statistics as Data

---

## Data Types: Discrete Data

- **Attributes (Nominal Data)** - names of mutually exclusive groups of objects.
  - Usually alpha-numeric names
    - Example: short, long, medium, medium, short, short
- **Ranked Variables (Ordinal Data)** - codes that can be ranked via reference to an external scale (e.g., 0 = small, 1 = medium, 2 = long).
  - Usually integers
    - Example: 0, 2, 1, 1, 0, 0

# Statistics as Data

---

## Data Types: Continuous Data

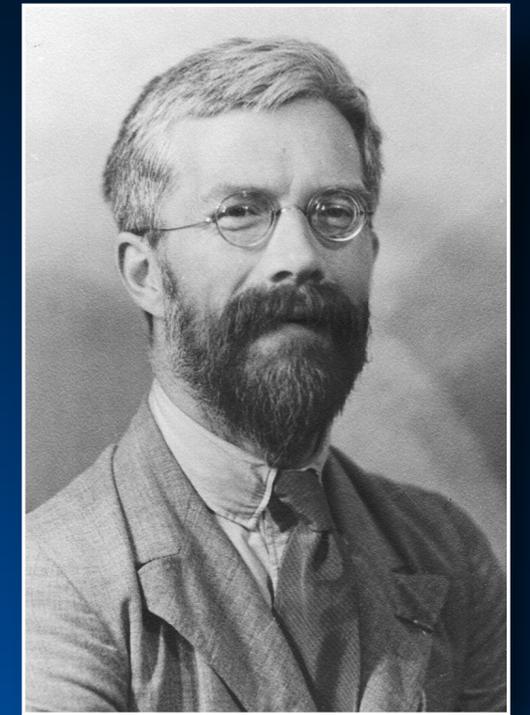
- **Measurement Variables (Interval Data)** - values that reference a consistent numerical scale (equivalent steps in magnitude), but one with an arbitrary origin (e.g., °F, °C °K).
  - Usually real numbers
    - Examples:  $-4.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $49.39^{\circ}\text{F}$ ,  $2.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $22.3^{\circ}\text{F}$ ,  $273.5^{\circ}\text{K}$
- **Measurement Variables (Ratio Data)** - values that reference a consistent numerical scale with a true zero point.
  - Real numbers
    - Examples: 4.14 mm, 2.24 mm, 1.75 mm, 3.03 mm
- **Mixed-mode Data** - Any combination of names, integers, and real numbers.

# Statistics as Data

## An Example: The Fisher *Iris* Data



*Edgar S. Anderson*  
(1897-1969)



*R. A. Fisher*  
(1890-1962)



*Iris setosa*



*Iris versicolor*



*Iris virginica*

# Fisher *Iris* Data

*Iris setosa*



*Iris versicolor*



*Iris virginica*



*Iris setosa*

n	Petal		Sepal	
	Leng	Widt	Leng	Widt
1	1.4	0.2	5.1	3.5
2	1.4	0.2	4.9	3.0
3	1.3	0.2	4.7	3.2
4	1.5	0.2	4.6	3.1
5	1.4	0.2	5.0	3.6
6	1.7	0.4	5.4	3.9
7	1.4	0.3	4.6	3.4
8	1.5	0.2	5.0	3.4
9	1.4	0.2	4.4	2.9
10	1.5	0.1	4.9	3.1
11	1.5	0.2	5.4	3.7
12	1.6	0.2	4.8	3.4
13	1.4	0.1	4.8	3.0
14	1.1	0.1	4.3	3.0

*Iris versicolor*

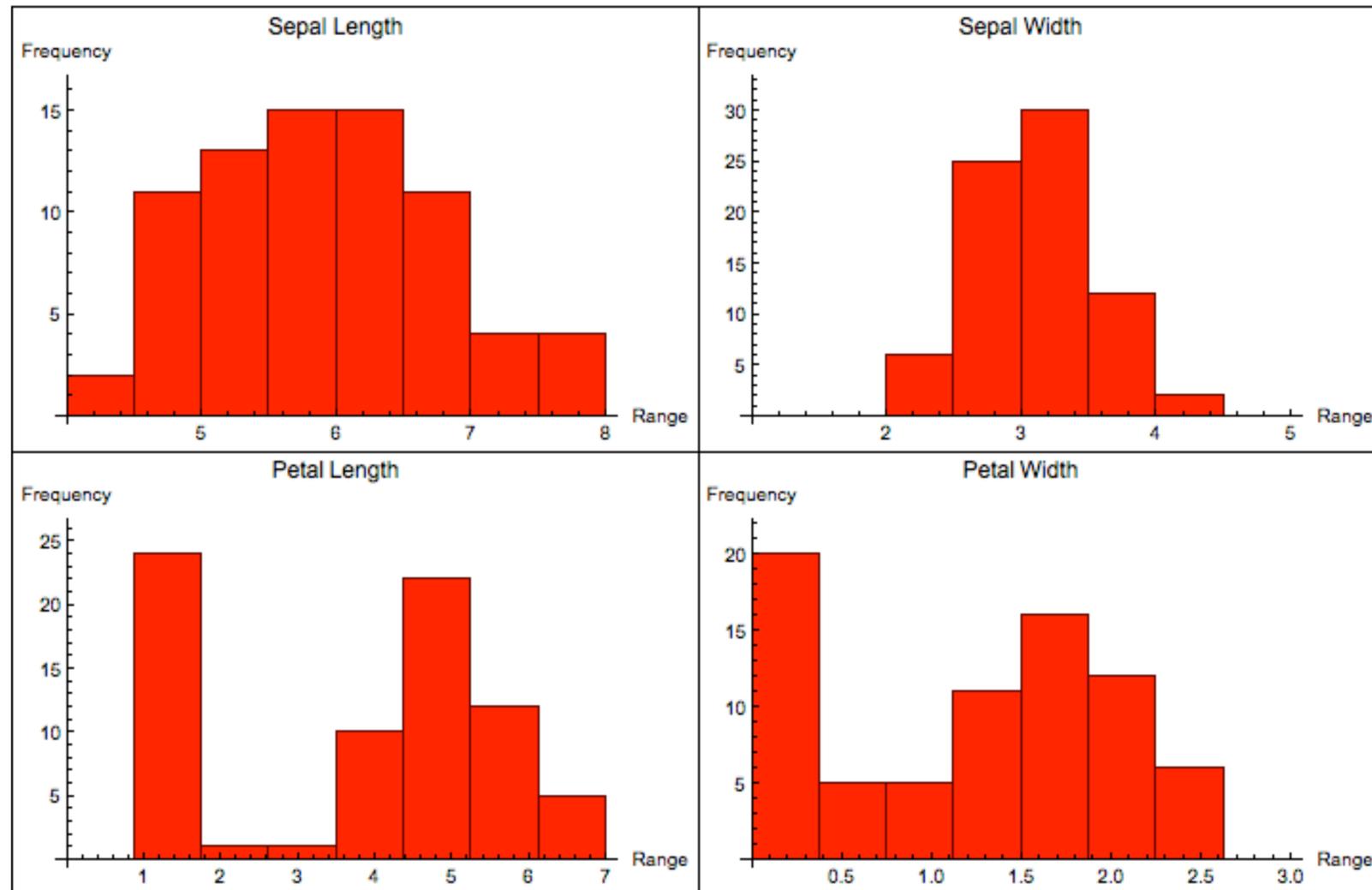
	Petal		Sepal	
	Leng	Widt	Leng	Widt
	4.7	1.4	7.0	3.2
	4.5	1.5	6.4	3.2
	4.9	1.5	6.9	3.1
	4.0	1.3	5.5	2.3
	4.6	1.5	6.5	2.8
	4.5	1.3	5.7	2.8
	4.7	1.6	6.3	3.3
	3.3	1.0	4.9	2.4
	4.6	1.3	6.6	2.9
	3.9	1.4	5.2	2.7
	3.5	1.0	5.0	2.0
	4.2	1.5	5.9	3.0
	4.0	1.0	6.0	2.2

*Iris virginica*

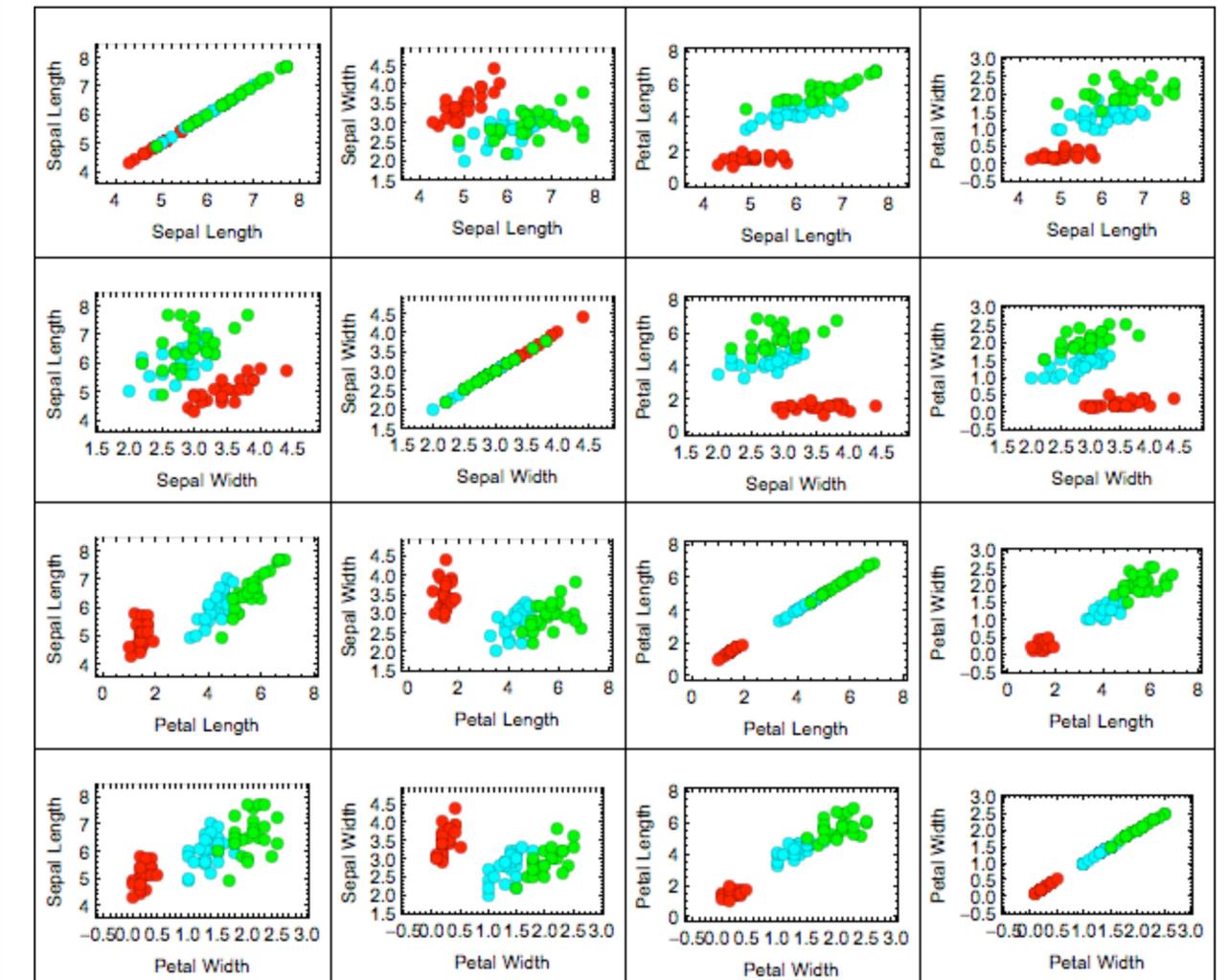
	Petal		Sepal	
	Leng	Widt	Leng	Widt
	6.0	2.5	6.3	3.3
	5.1	1.9	5.8	2.7
	5.9	2.1	7.1	3.0
	5.6	1.8	6.3	2.9
	5.8	2.2	6.5	3.0
	6.6	2.1	7.6	3.0
	4.5	1.7	4.9	2.5
	6.3	1.8	7.3	2.9
	5.8	1.8	6.7	2.5
	6.1	2.5	7.2	3.6
	5.1	2.0	6.5	3.2
	5.3	1.9	6.4	2.7
	5.5	2.1	6.8	3.0

# Fisher *Iris* Data

## Frequency Histograms



## Scatterplots



# Statistics as Data Analysis

---

## Describing a Collection



# Statistics as Data Analysis

---

## Describing a Collection

- **Range** - difference between highest and lowest observation.
- **Median** - middle number of an ordered set of data.
- **Mode** - the most frequent observation in a set of data.
- **Mean** - family of indices relating the sums or products of a dataset to the number of data values
  - **Arithmetic Mean** - the centroid of the distribution.
  - **Geometric Mean** - the  $n^{\text{th}}$  root of the product of  $n$  observations.
  - **Harmonic Mean** - reciprocal of the arithmetic mean of the set of reciprocals of a set of observations.
- **Variance** - mean of squared deviations from the mean.
- **Standard Deviation** - mean of deviations from the mean.
- **Coefficient of Variation** - ratio of std. deviation to the mean.
- **Percentile** - the value of a variable below which a certain percent of observations fall.

# Statistics as Data Analysis

---

## Locating Data

**Range** - difference between highest and lowest observation.

## Raw Data

-1.145, 1.887, 2.270, 1.242, 0.825, 0.498, -1.600, 4.124, -0.083, -1.044

## Ordered Data

-1.600, -1.145, -1.044, -0.083, 0.498, 0.825, 1.242, 1.887, 2.270, 4.124

## Range

$$4.124 - -1.600 = 5.724$$

# Statistics as Data Analysis

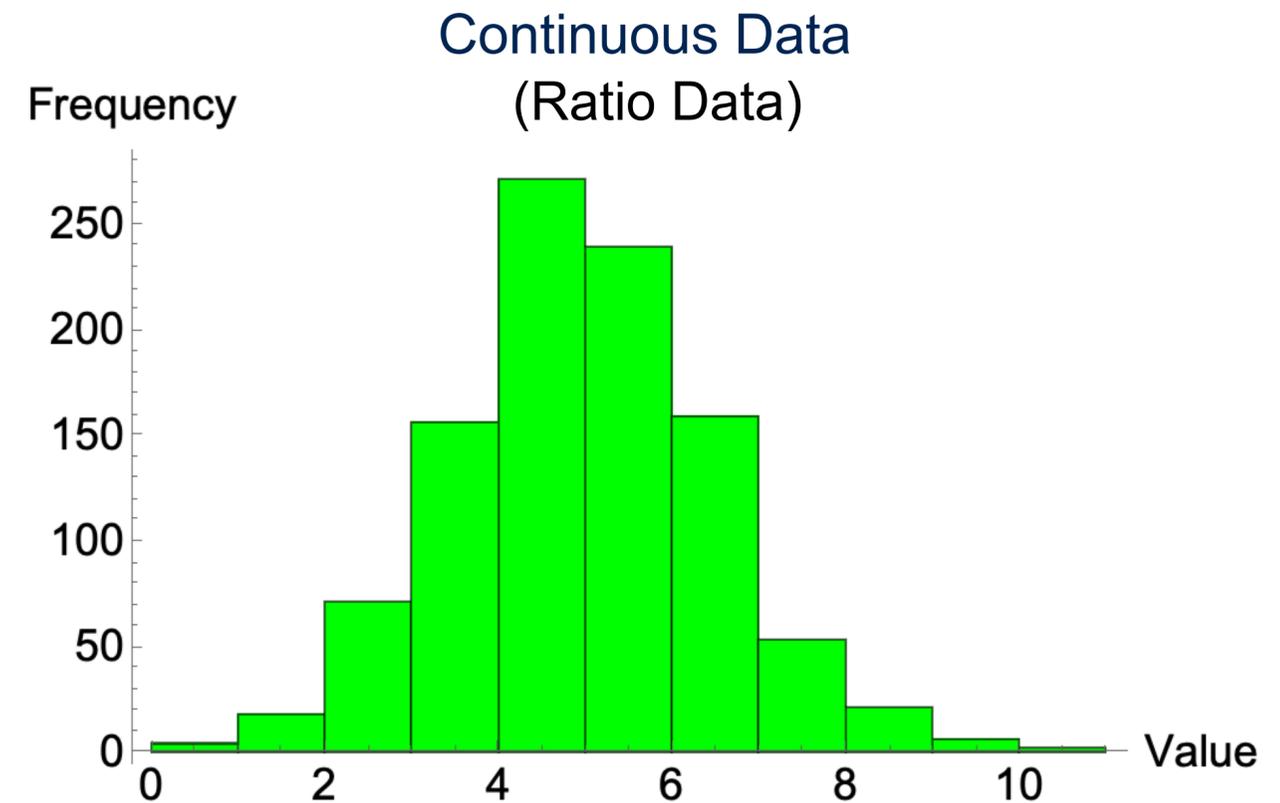
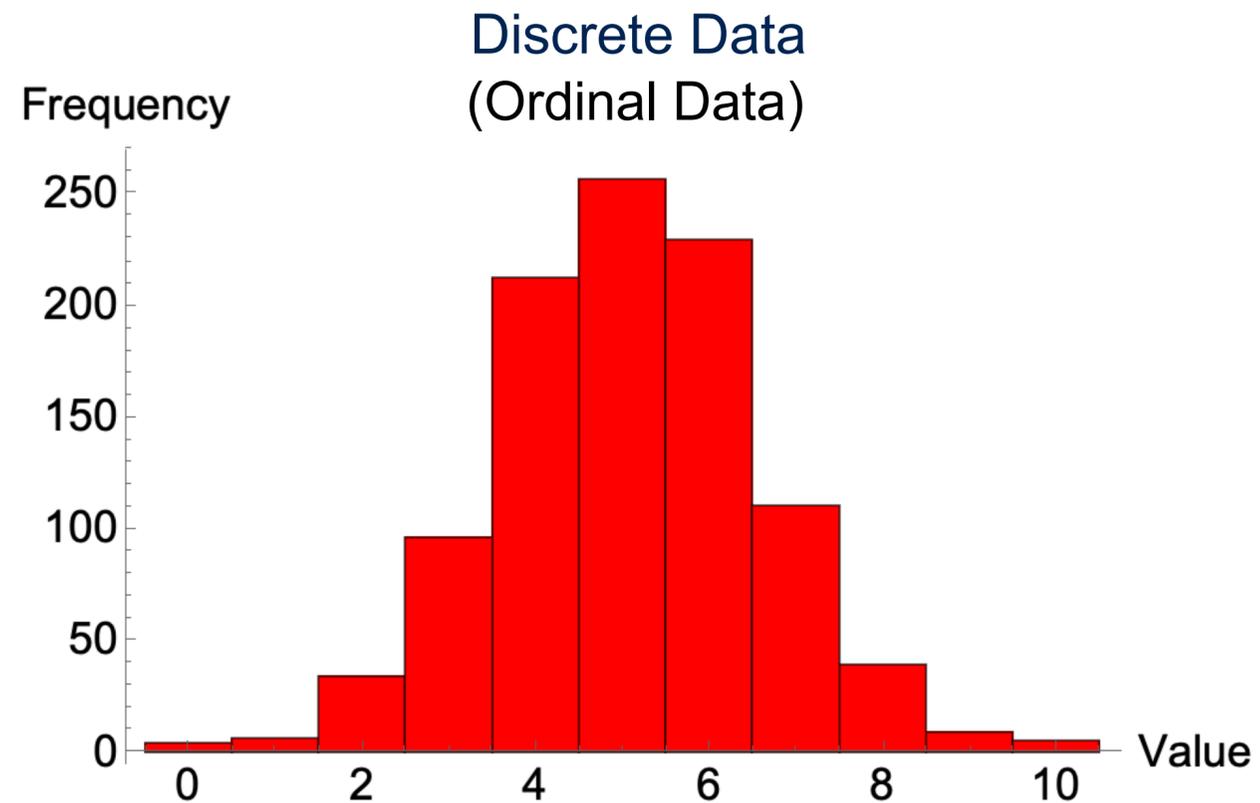
---

## Describing a Collection

- **Range** - difference between highest and lowest observation.
- **Median** - middle number of an ordered set of data.
- **Mode** - the most frequent observation in a set of data.
- **Mean** - family of indices relating the sums or products of a dataset to the number of data values
  - **Arithmetic Mean** - the centroid of the distribution.
  - **Geometric Mean** - the  $n^{\text{th}}$  root of the product of  $n$  observations.
  - **Harmonic Mean** - reciprocal of the arithmetic mean of the set of reciprocals of a set of observations.
- **Variance** - mean of squared deviations from the mean.
- **Standard Deviation** - mean of deviations from the mean.
- **Coefficient of Variation** - ratio of std. deviation to the mean.
- **Percentile** - the value of a variable below which a certain percent of observations fall.

# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Measures of Central Tendency Two Datasets of Different Types

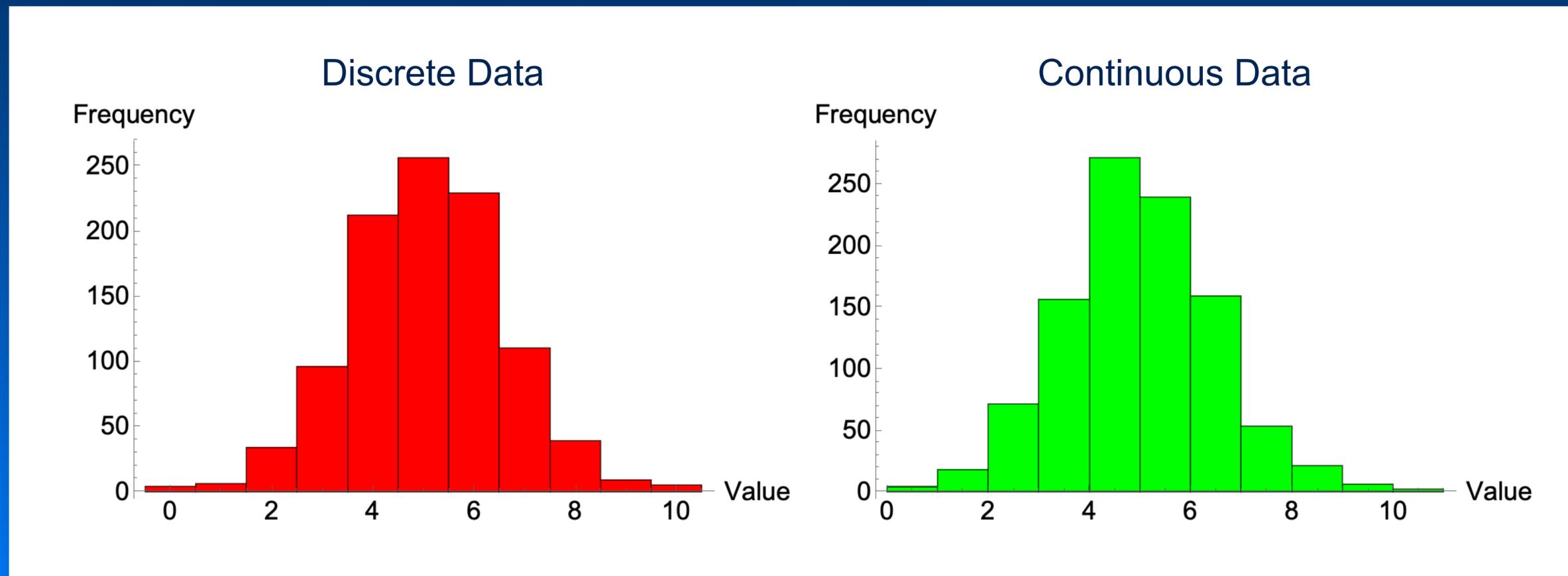


$N = 1,000$

# Statistics as Data Analysis

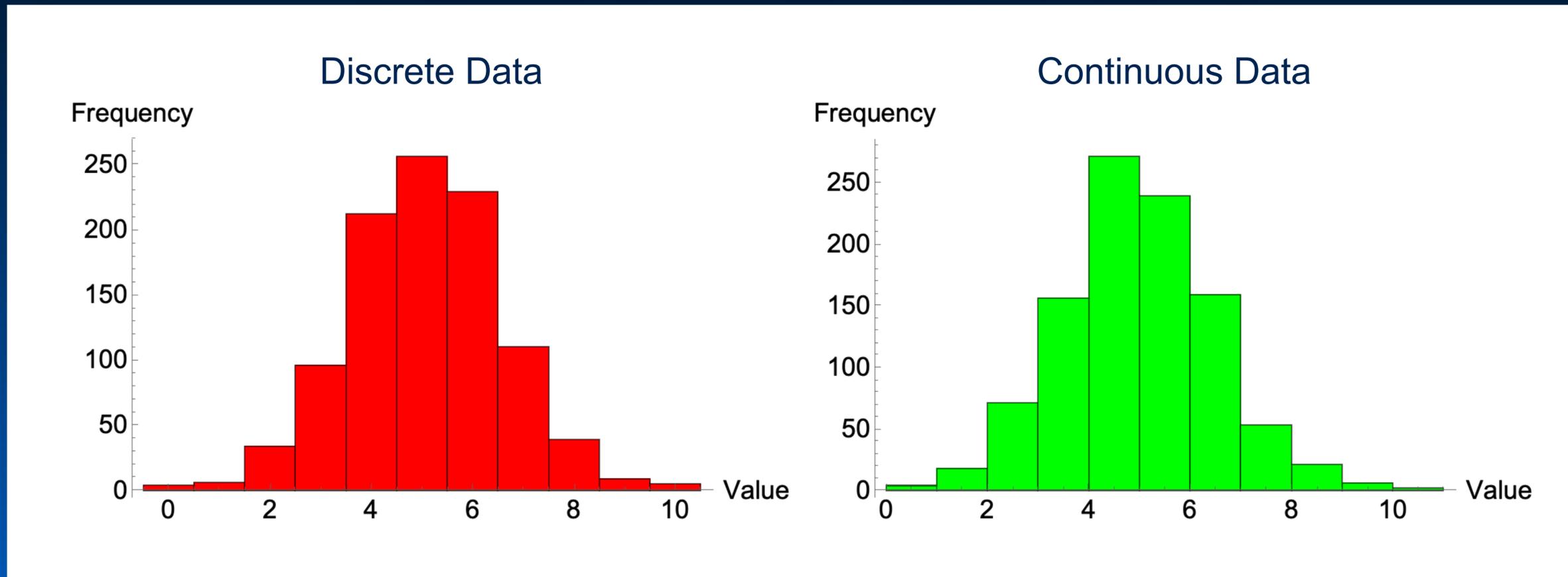
## Measures of Central Tendency

- **Mean** = usually  $\Sigma x_i/n$  (arithmetic mean).
- **Median** = lies at the  $(n+1)/2$  position when  $n$  is odd and at the mean of the  $n/2$  and  $(n/2)+1$  positions when  $n$  is even.
- **Mode** = category or class with the highest  $n$ .



# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Measures of Central Tendency

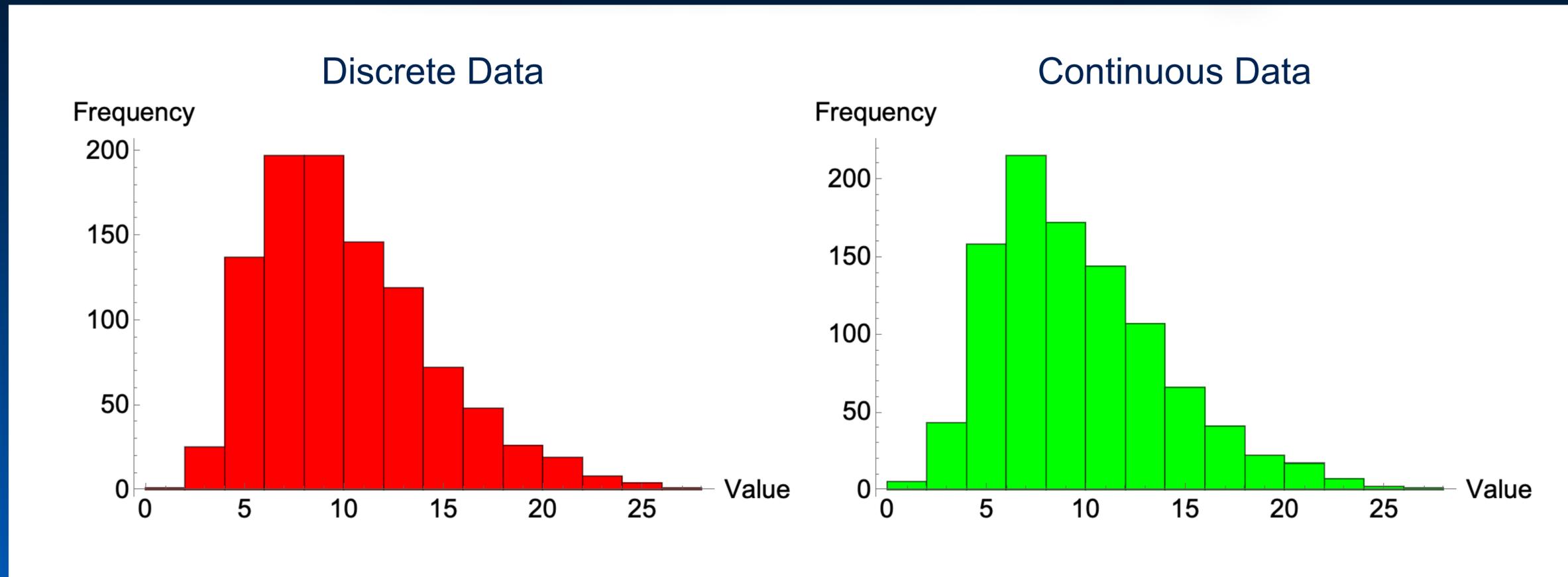


Mean	5
Median	5
Mode	5

Mean	4.7
Median	4.9
Mode	4.9

# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Measures of Central Tendency



Mode	6 - 7
Median	9
Mean	9

Mode	5.83 – 7.50
Median	8.9
Mean	9.7

# Statistics as Data Analysis

---

## Measures of Central Tendency

- **Mode** - used primarily to describe nominal and/or ordinal data. When used for continuous data its value is tied to the size of the bins used to aggregate the data.
- **Median** - Can only be used to describe data that can be arranged in rank order (e.g., ordinal, interval, ratio data).
- **Mean** - Assumes equal spacing between adjacent values. Can be used to describe ordinal, interval, ratio data, but when used on ordinal data it usually produces a non-discrete (= impossible) result.

None of these measures of central tendency can be applied usefully to datasets that include a variety of different data types (mixed-mode data).

# Statistics as Data Analysis

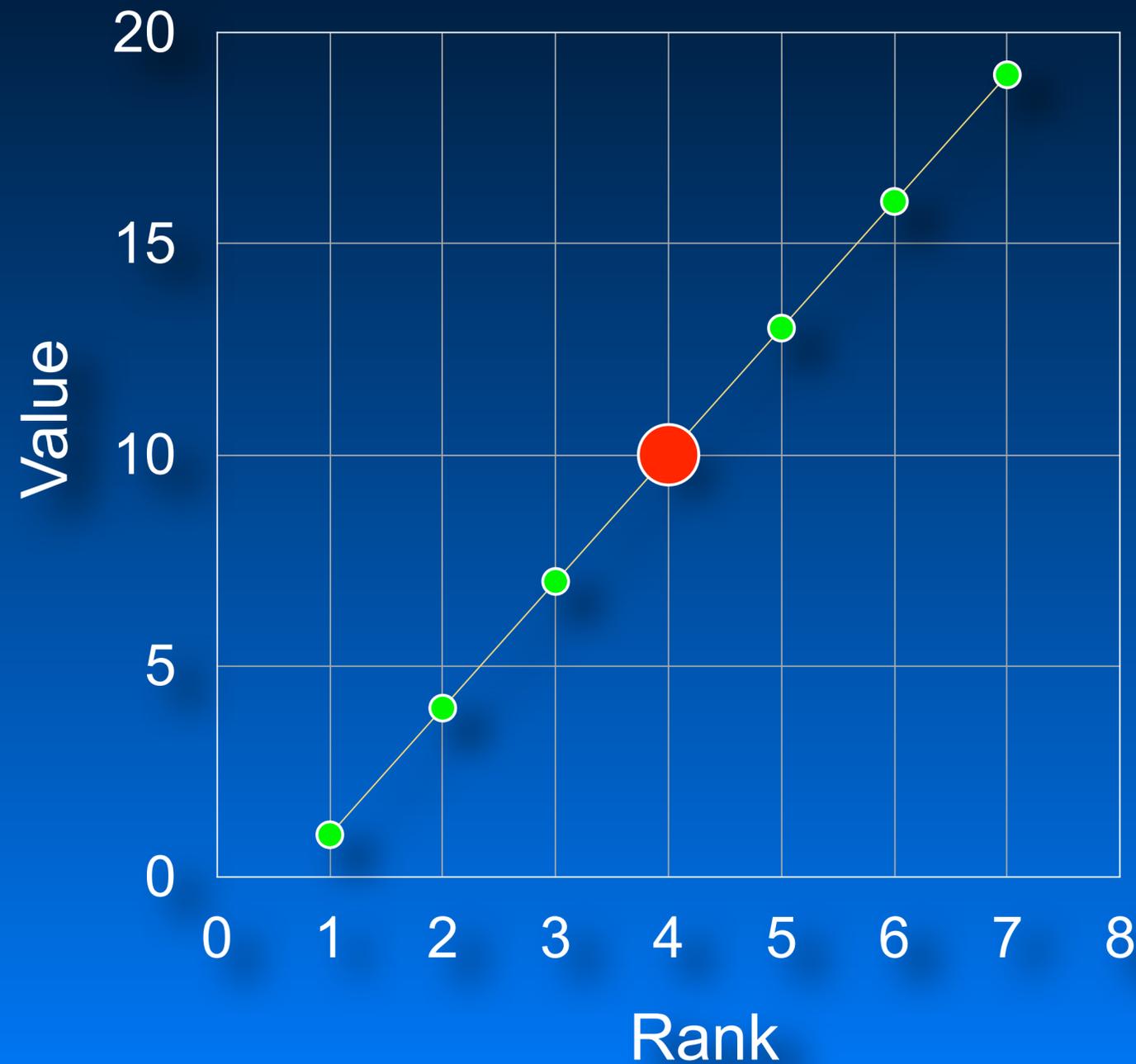
---

## Describing a Collection

- **Range** - difference between highest and lowest observation.
- **Median** - middle number of an ordered set of data.
- **Mode** - the most frequent observation in a set of data.
- **Mean** - family of indices relating the sums or products of a dataset to the number of data values
  - **Arithmetic Mean** - the centroid of the distribution.
  - **Geometric Mean** - the  $n^{\text{th}}$  root of the product of  $n$  observations.
  - **Harmonic Mean** - reciprocal of the arithmetic mean of the set of reciprocals of a set of observations.
- **Variance** - mean of squared deviations from the mean.
- **Standard Deviation** - mean of deviations from the mean.
- **Coefficient of Variation** - ratio of std. deviation to the mean.
- **Percentile** - the value of a variable below which a certain percent of observations fall.

# Statistics as Data Analysis

## The Arithmetic Mean



$$\bar{y} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i}{n}$$

Data

x	y
1	1
2	4
3	7
4	10
5	13
6	16
7	19

Evaluation

$$\bar{y} = \frac{70}{7} = 10$$

# Statistics as Data Analysis

## The Arithmetic Mean



$$\bar{y} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n y_i}{n}$$

Data

x	y
1	1
2	4
3	7
4	10
5	13
6	16
7	19

Evaluation

$$\bar{y} = \frac{1093}{7} = 156.14$$

# Statistics as Data Analysis

## The Geometric Mean



$$\bar{y} = \sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n y_i}$$

Data

x	y
1	1
2	4
3	7
4	10
5	13
6	16
7	19

Evaluation

$$\bar{y} = \sqrt[7]{10,460,353,203}$$
$$\bar{y} = 27$$

# Statistics as Data Analysis

What about rates?

Time (myr)	Interval	Length (mm)	Rate (mm/myr)
0	-	100	-
10	10	200	10
20	10	400	20



$t = 10$  myr



$t = 0.0$

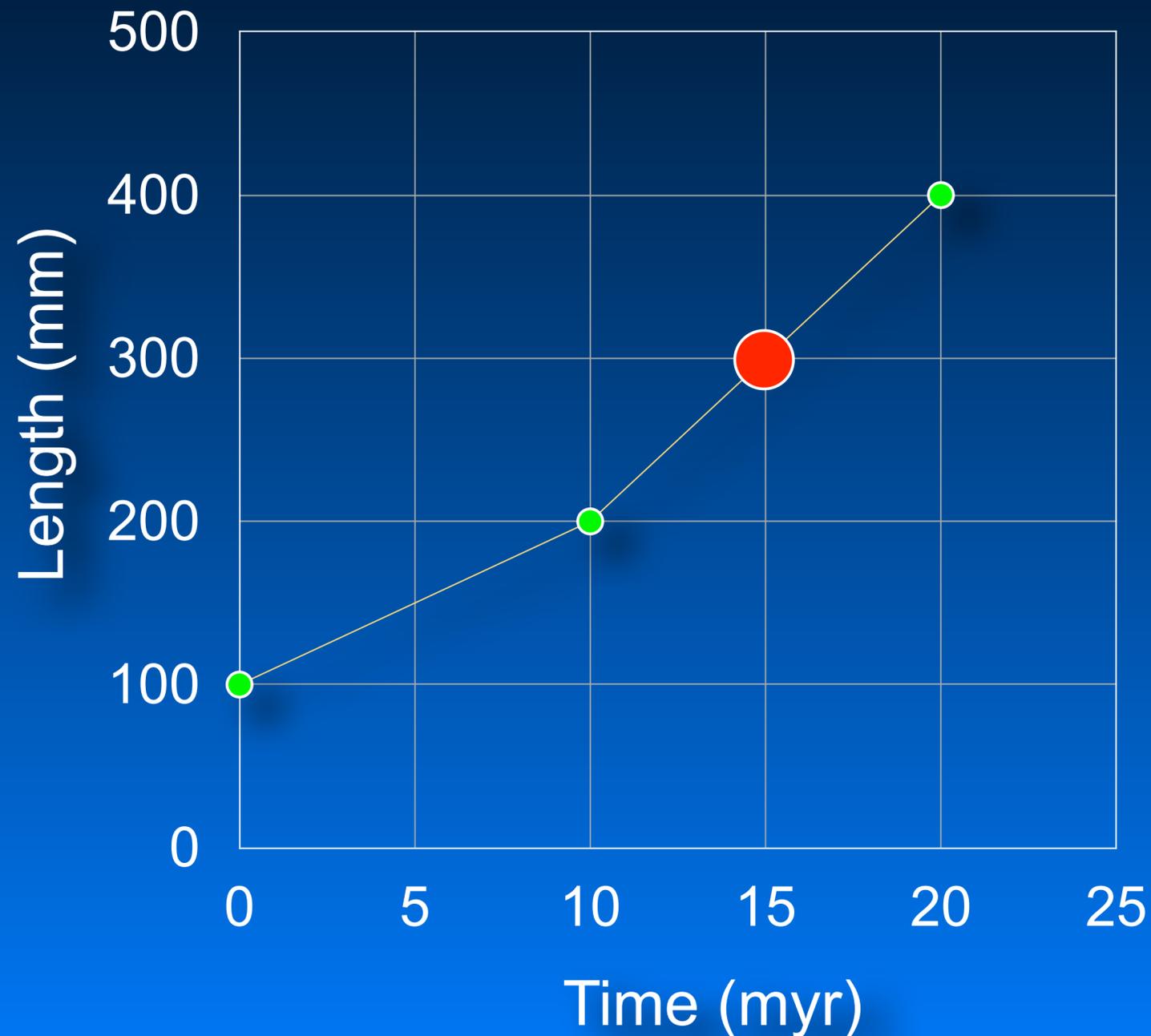


$t = 20$  myr

Which mean should I use to calculate average rates?

# Statistics as Data Analysis

## The Geometric Mean



$$\bar{y} = \sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n y_i}$$

Data

Time	Rate	Rate
0	100	-
10	200	10
20	400	20

Evaluation

$$\bar{y} = \frac{(10 + 20)}{2} = 15$$

# Statistics as Data Analysis

What about rates?

Time (myr)	Interval	Length (mm)	Rate (mm/myr)
0	-	100	-
10	10	200	10
20	10	400	20

However, because the net change from  $t = 0$  was unequal over the two time intervals, the average cannot be the midpoint.

It should be closer to 10 mm/myr.



$t = 10$  myr



$t = 0.0$



$t = 20$  myr

# Statistics as Data Analysis

What about rates?

Time (myr)	Length (mm)	Rate (mm/myr)	Proportion of size change	Ratio
0	100	-	-	-
10	200	10	100/300	0.33
10	400	20	200/300	0.67

Harmonic (“Unweighted” Arithmetic) Mean

$$\bar{y} = (10 \times 0.67) + (20 \times 0.33)$$

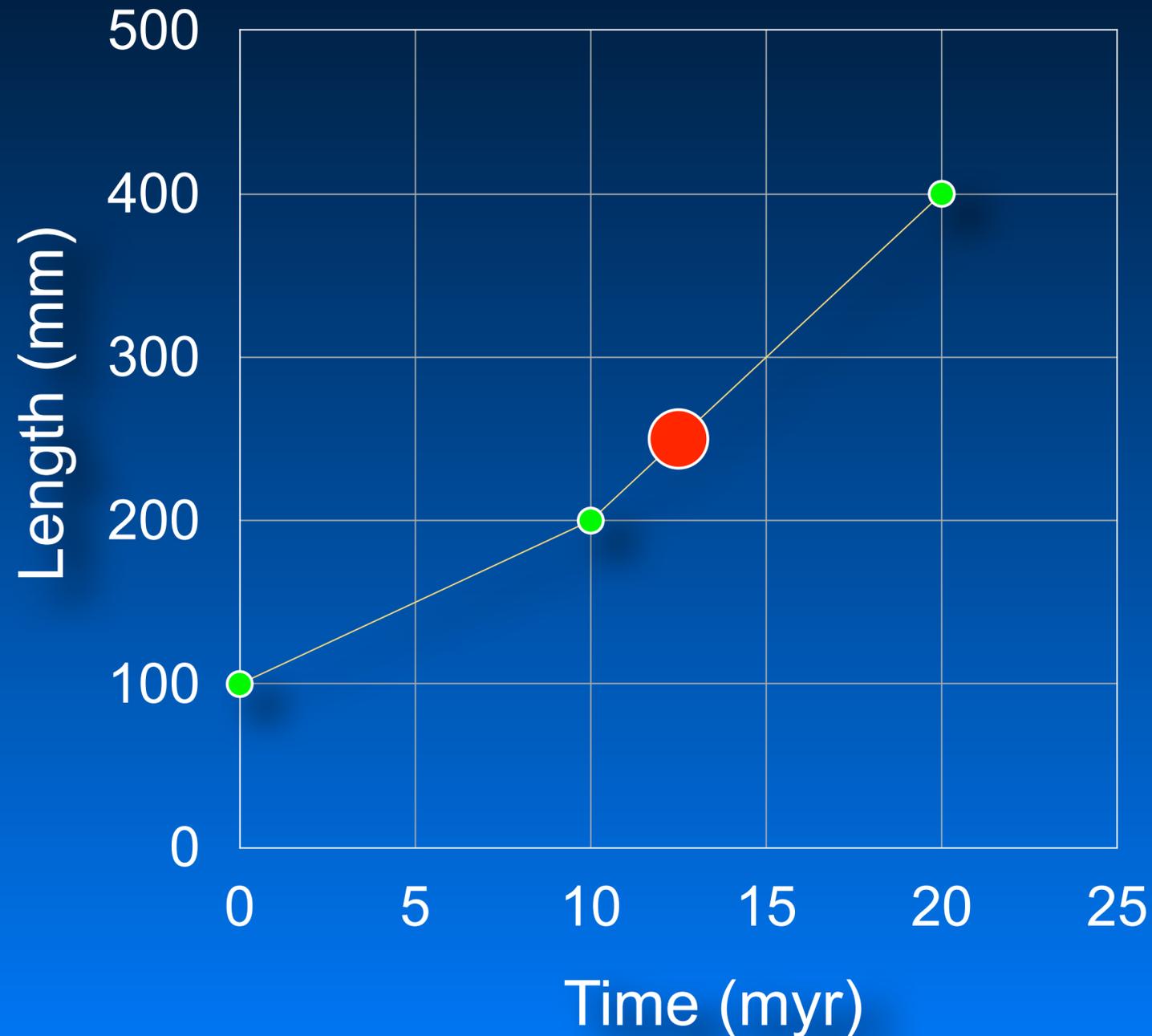
$$\bar{y} = (6.7) + (6.6)$$

$$\bar{y} = 13.3$$

# Statistics as Data Analysis

## The Harmonic Mean

$$\bar{y} = \frac{n}{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{y_i}}$$



### Data

Time	Rate	Rate
0	100	-
10	200	10
20	400	20

### Evaluation

$$\bar{y} = \frac{2}{\left(\frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{20}\right)} = \frac{2}{(0.1 + 0.05)}$$
$$\bar{y} = \frac{2}{0.15} = 13.3$$

# Statistics as Data Analysis

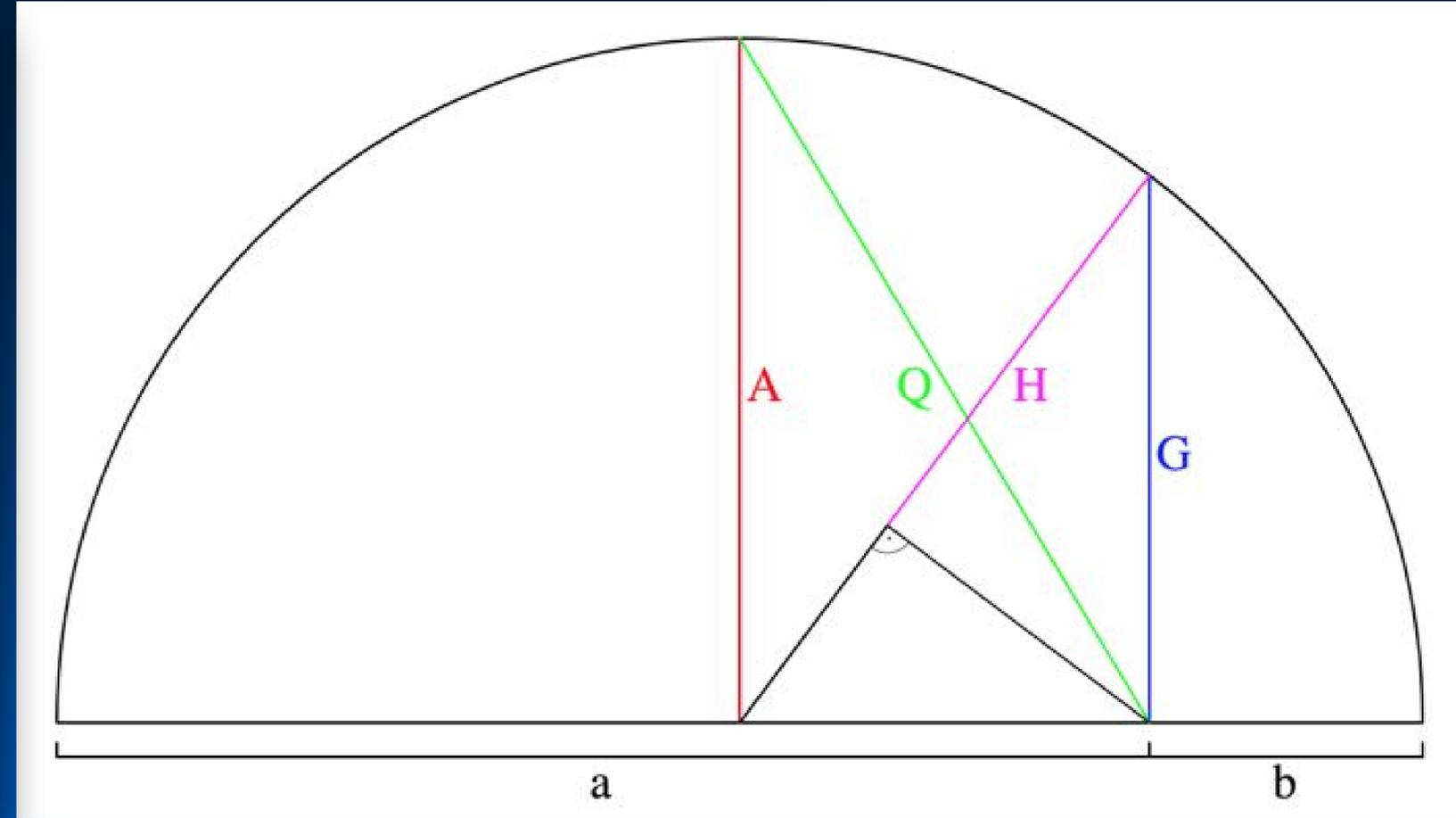
---

## Describing Central Tendency: Summary

- **Arithmetic Mean** - the centroid of the distribution.
  - Use when data are linear, additive and referenced to a common scale.
- **Geometric Mean** - the  $n^{\text{th}}$  root of the product of  $n$  observations.
  - Use when data are non-linear, multiplicative and/or when variables have different scales.
- **Harmonic Mean** - reciprocal of the arithmetic mean of the set of reciprocals of a set of observations.
  - Use when data are ratios or speeds.

# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Wisdom of the Ancients



The Greek mathematician & philosopher Pythagoras' diagram of the geometric relation between the arithmetic mean (A), geometric mean (G), harmonic mean (H), and quadratic mean (Q) of two numbers (a & b) of unequal magnitude.

# Statistics as Data Analysis

---

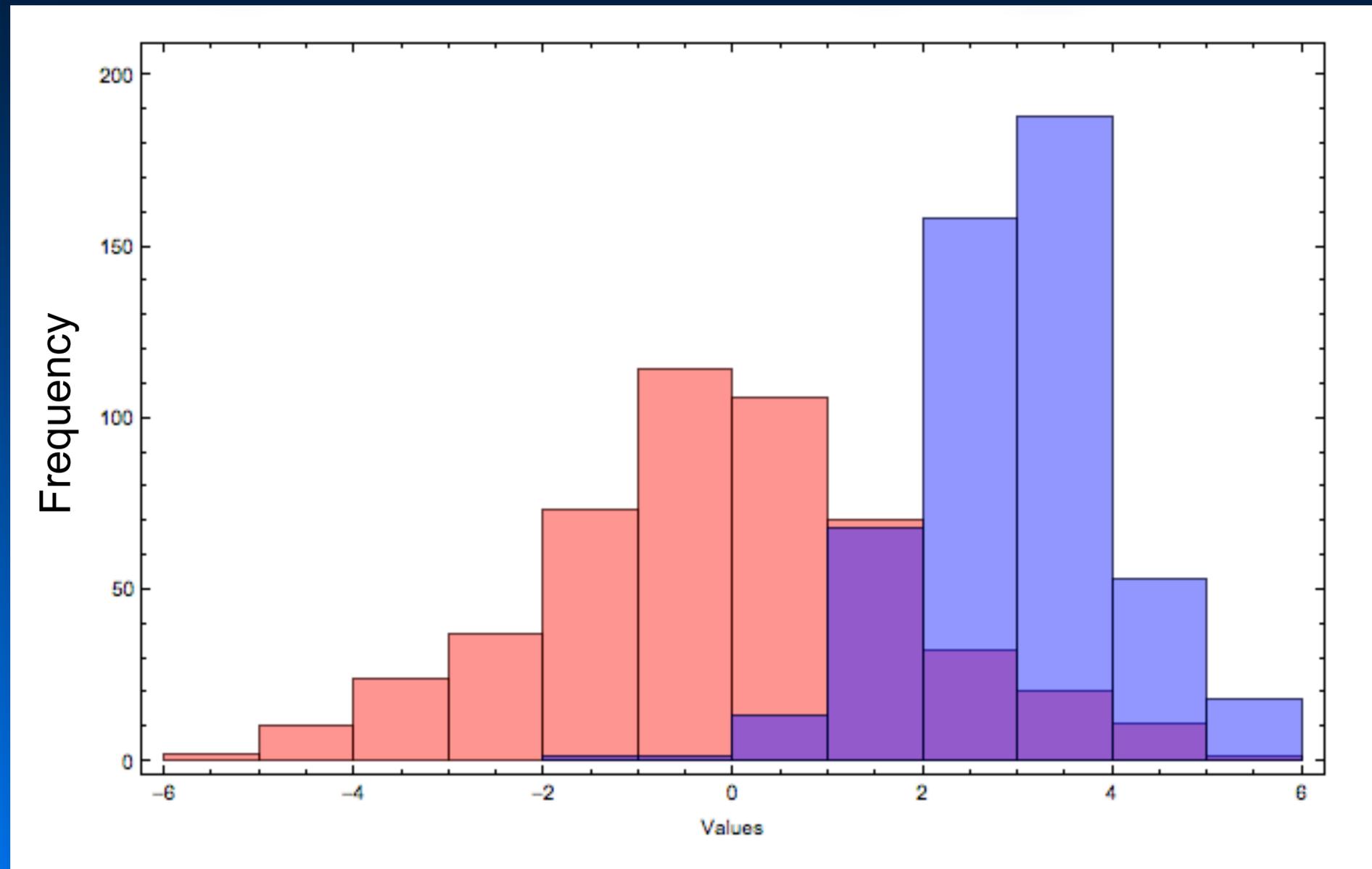
What's the point of a mean?



How can we use means to describe specimens with numbers?  
And why would we want to?

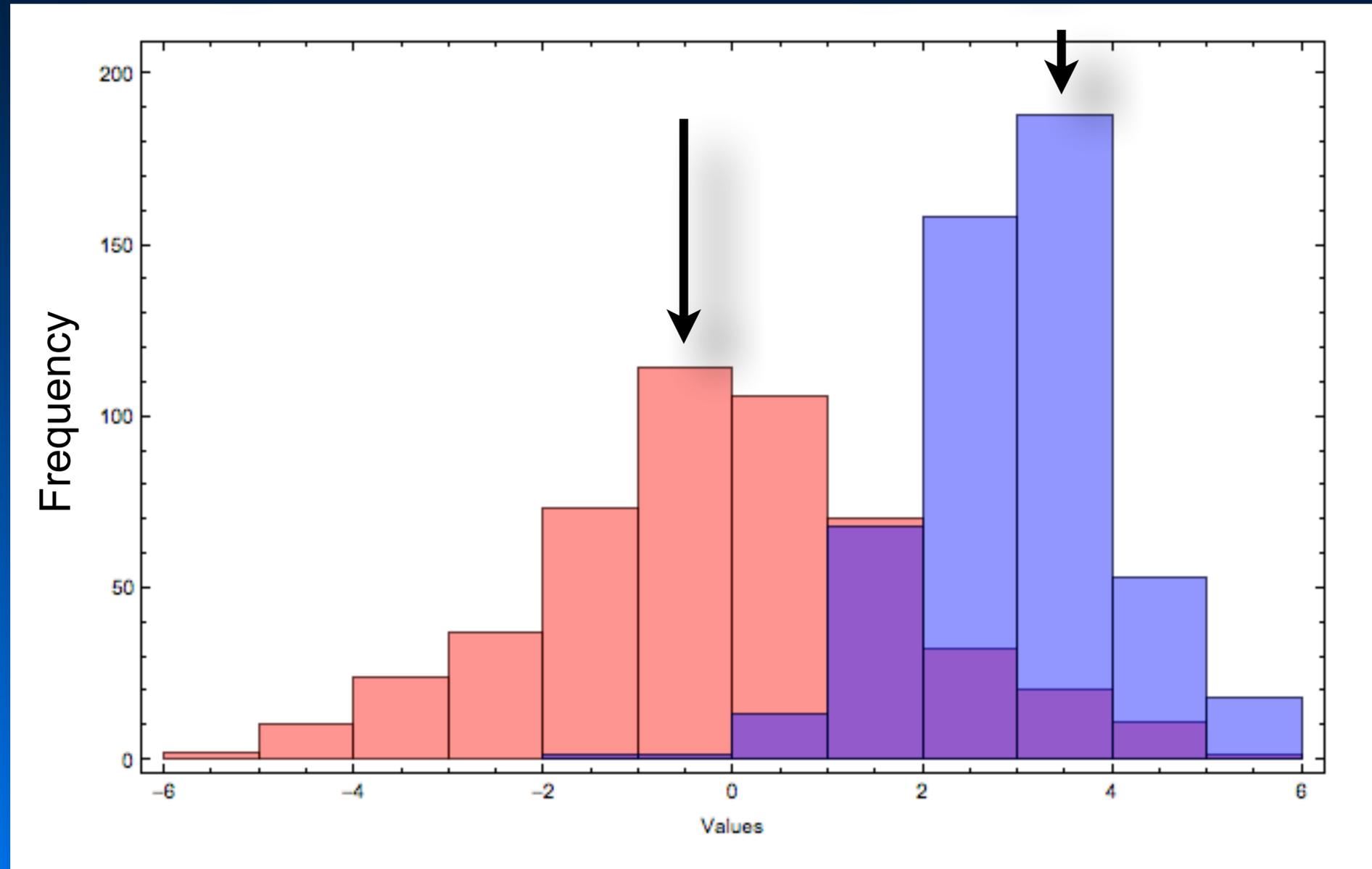
# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Descriptive Statistics: Comparing Collections



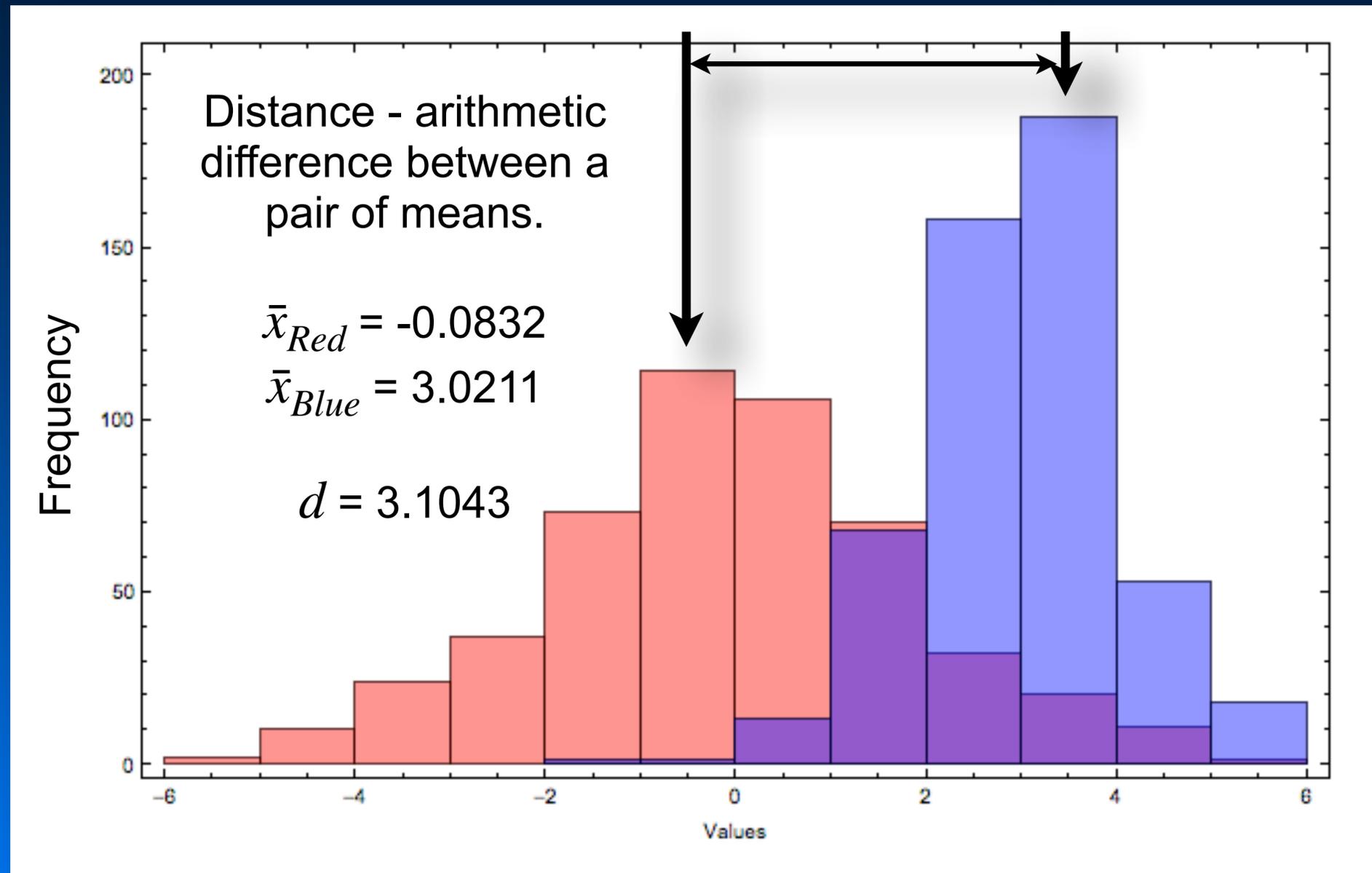
# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Descriptive Statistics: Comparing Collections



# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Descriptive Statistics: Comparing Collections



# Statistics as Data Analysis

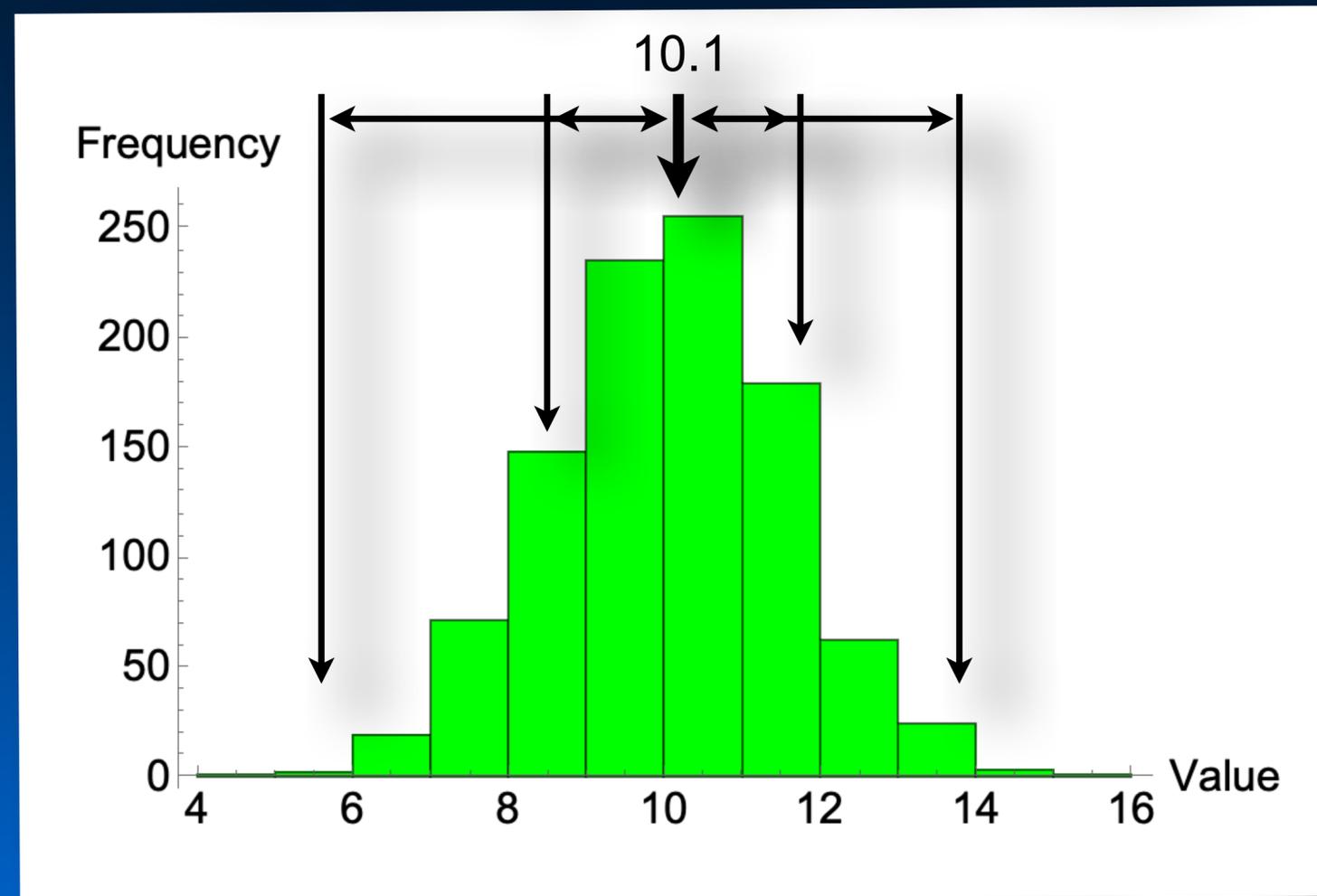
---

## Describing a Collection

- **Range** - difference between highest and lowest observation.
- **Median** - middle number of an ordered set of data.
- **Mode** - the most frequent observation in a set of data.
- **Mean** - family of indices relating the sums or products of a dataset to the number of data values
  - **Arithmetic Mean** - the centroid of the distribution.
  - **Geometric Mean** - the  $n^{\text{th}}$  root of the product of  $n$  observations.
  - **Harmonic Mean** - reciprocal of the arithmetic mean of the set of reciprocals of a set of observations.
- **Variance** - mean of squared deviations from the mean.
- **Standard Deviation** - mean of deviations from the mean.
- **Coefficient of Variation** - ratio of std. deviation to the mean.
- **Percentile** - the value of a variable below which a certain percent of observations fall.

# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Variability About the Mean

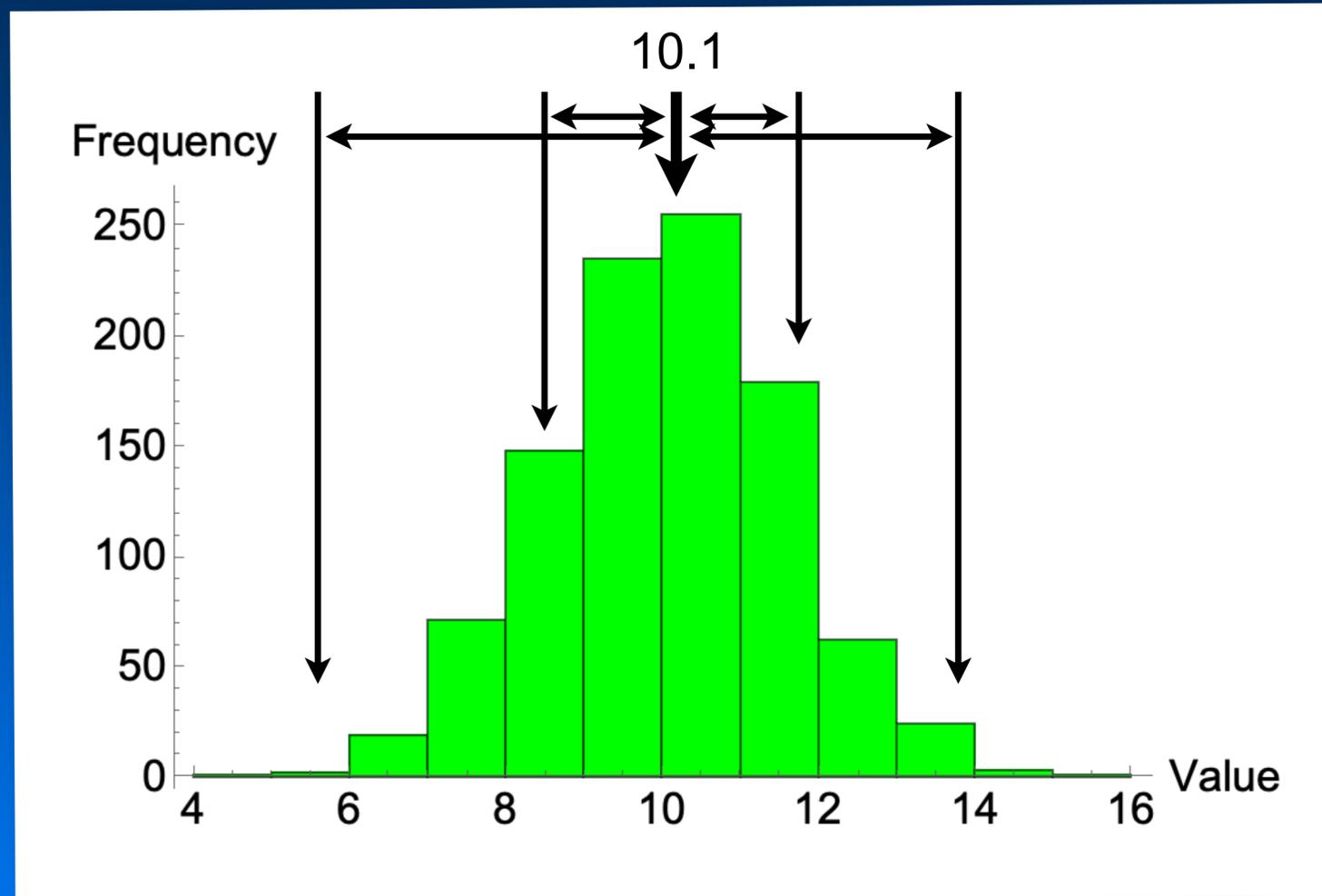


The variance is the average of the squared deviations from the arithmetic mean.

# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Variability About the Mean

The variance is the average of the squared deviations from the arithmetic mean.



## Variance

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

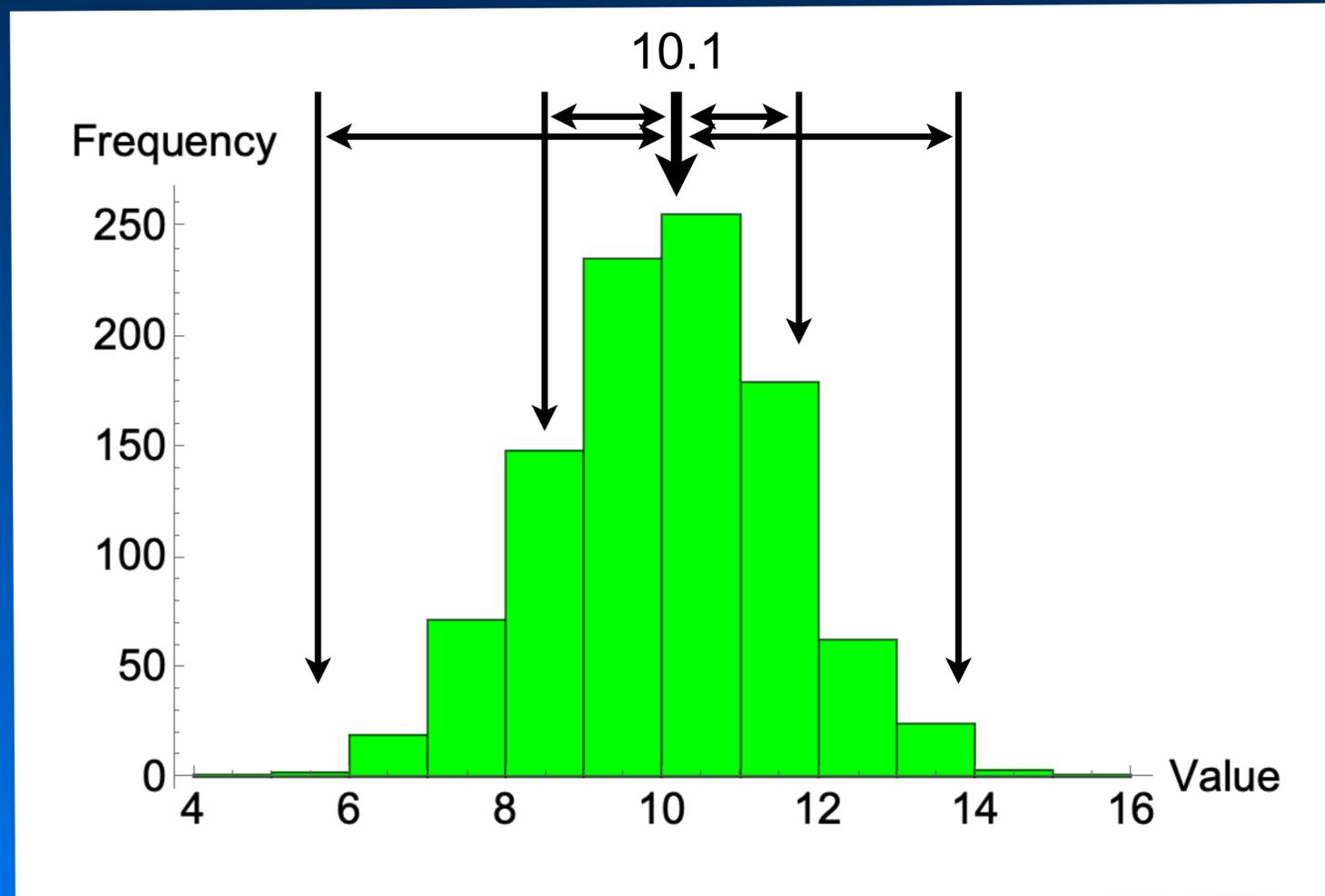
$$s^2 = 2.345$$

What are the units of the variance?

# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Variability About the Mean

The standard deviation is the square root of the variance.



## Standard Deviation

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

$$s = 1.531$$

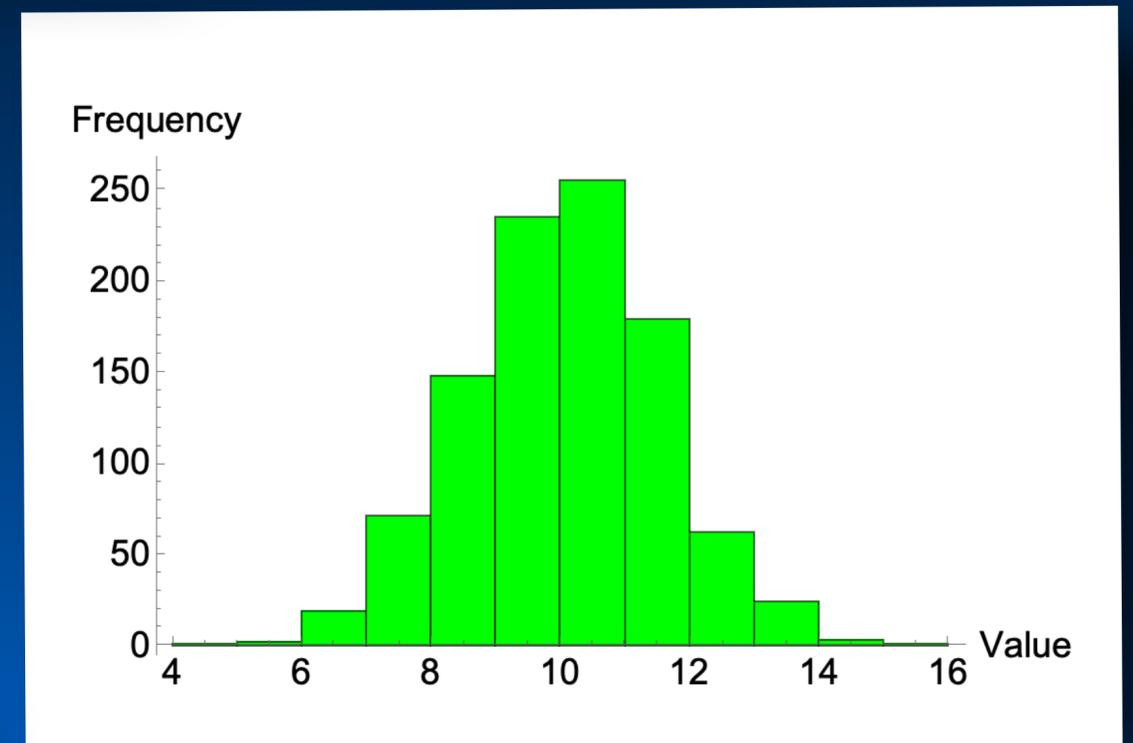
What are the units of the standard deviation?

# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Variability About the Mean

What about assumptions?

- Variances and standard deviations are used to describe single sets of values.
- Their calculation assumes each data value is independent of all other data values in the sample or population of interest.
- If this is not true – if the data exhibits some type of structure (e.g., clustering) due to the presence of a constraint that limits variation in certain directions – the variance and standard deviation can still be estimated, but must be adjusted to compensate for the presence of the structure.



# Statistics as Data Analysis

---

## Describing a Collection

- **Range** - difference between highest and lowest observation.
- **Median** - middle number of an ordered set of data.
- **Mode** - the most frequent observation in a set of data.
- **Mean** - family of indices relating the sums or products of a dataset to the number of data values
  - **Arithmetic Mean** - the centroid of the distribution.
  - **Geometric Mean** - the  $n^{\text{th}}$  root of the product of  $n$  observations.
  - **Harmonic Mean** - reciprocal of the arithmetic mean of the set of reciprocals of a set of observations.
- **Variance** - mean of squared deviations from the mean.
- **Standard Deviation** - mean of deviations from the mean.
- **Coefficient of Variation** - ratio of std. deviation to the mean.
- **Percentile** - the value of a variable below which a certain percent of observations fall.

# Statistics as Data Analysis

---

## Measures of Variation

### Coefficient of Variation

Because the variance and standard deviation take the mean as their points of reference, variables that have a high mean ( $\mu$  or  $\bar{x}$ ) will always have a tendency to return higher variance ( $\sigma^2$  or  $s^2$ ) and standard deviation ( $\sigma$  or  $s$ ) values than those with low means. Therefore, the mean-standardized standard deviation – also called the coefficient of variation – is usually employed when comparisons between different variables, or the same variable whose values range over different intervals, are needed.

$$C_v = \frac{\sigma}{\mu}$$

Care must be taken to use the coefficient of variation only to compare ratio variables with meaningful zero points.

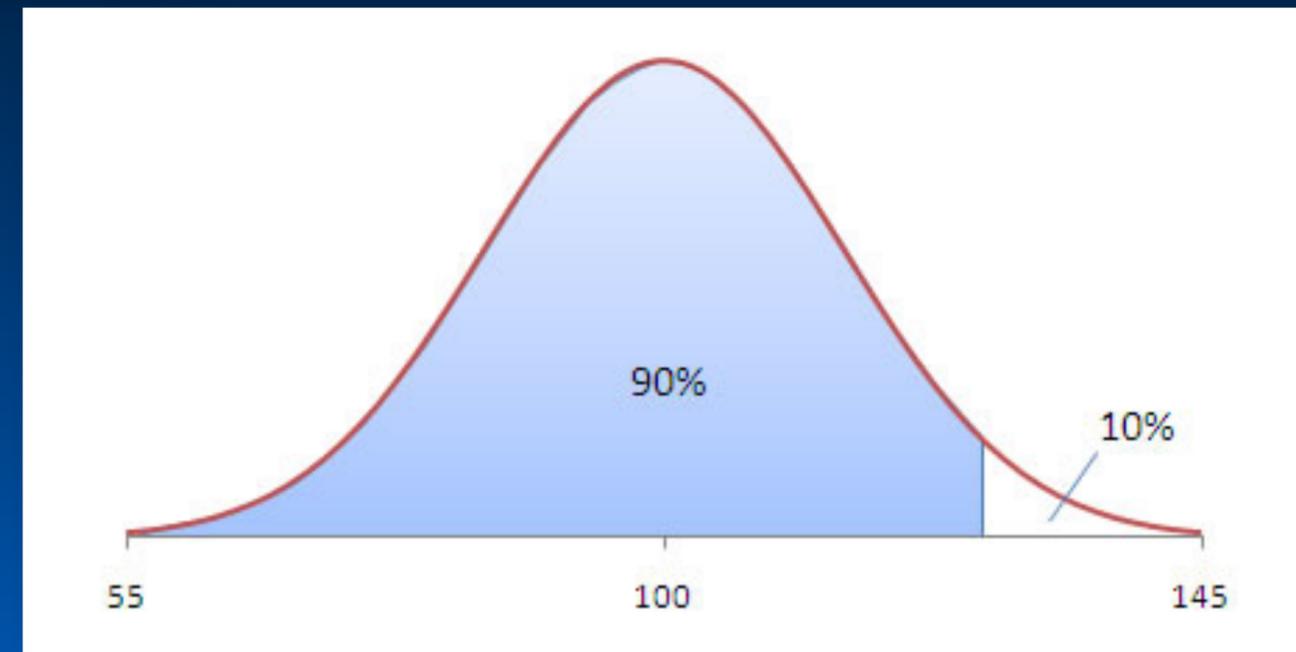
# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Measures of Variation

### Percentile

The variable value below which a given percentage of the population or sample observations lie.

Percentile	Value	Probability	
		(p)	( $\alpha$ )
10%	65	0.10	0.90
25%	90	0.25	0.75
50%	100	0.50	0.50
90%	119	0.90	0.10
95%	125	0.95	0.05

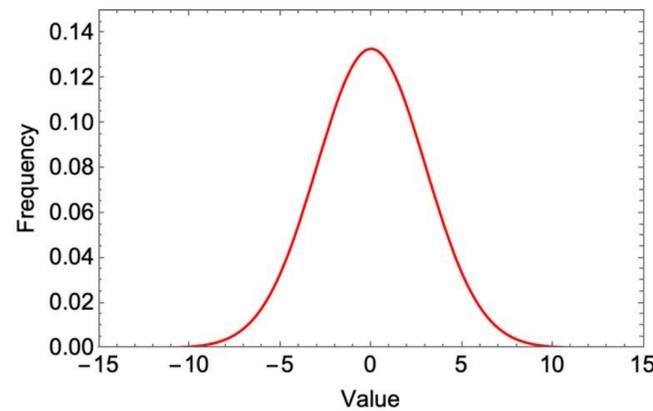


The percentile can be calculated for one-tailed or two-tailed distributions and is the parameter that gives meaning to the concept of frequentist probability estimation.

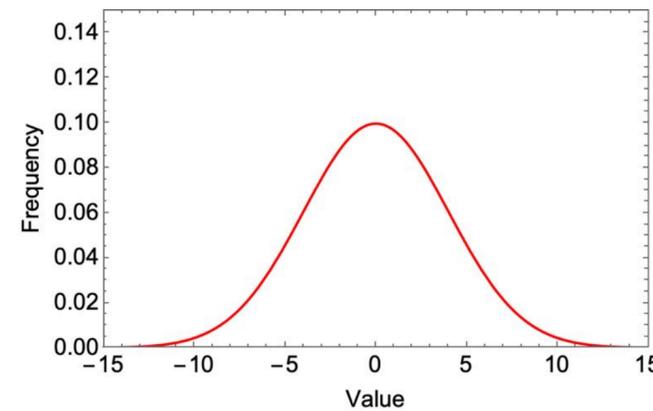
# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Describing Patterns of Variation

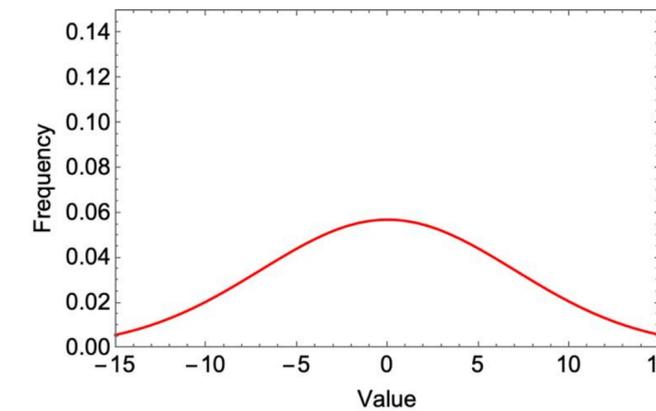
Low Variance



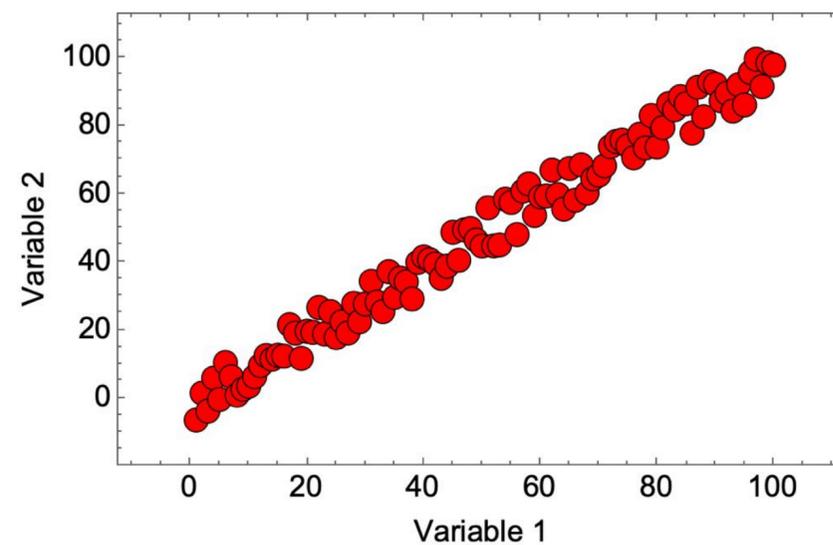
Medium Variance



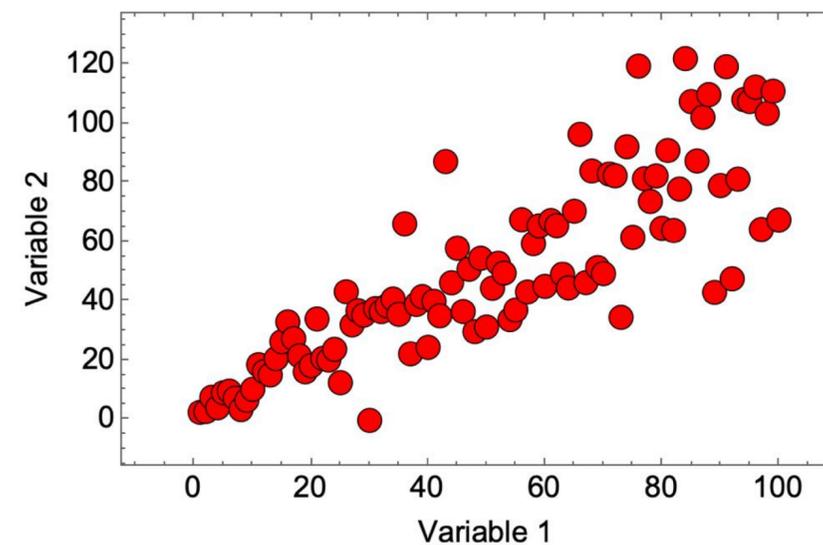
High Variance



Homoscedastic Variables

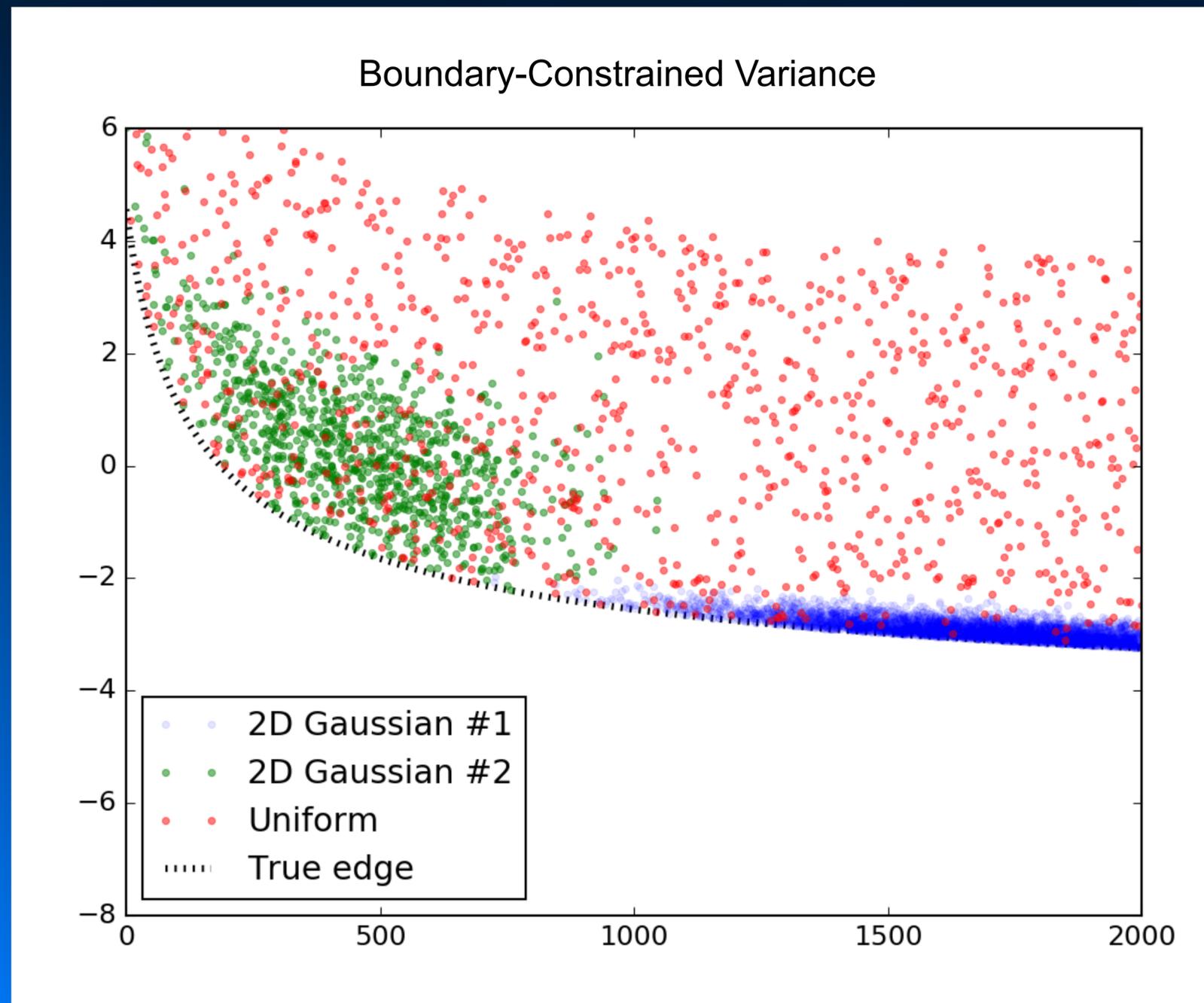


Heteroscedastic Variables



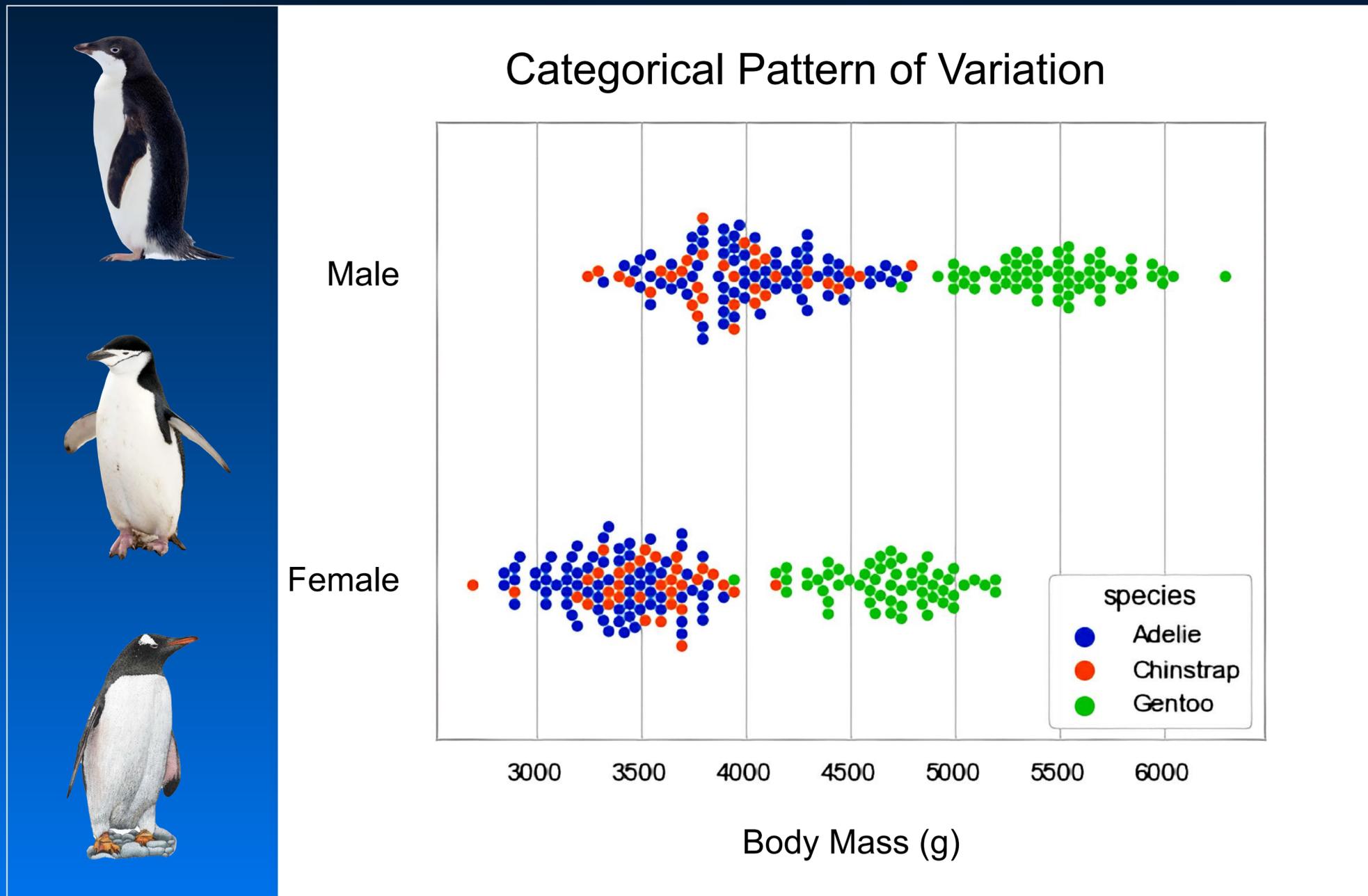
# Statistics as Data Analysis

## Describing Patterns of Variation



# Statistics as Data Analysis

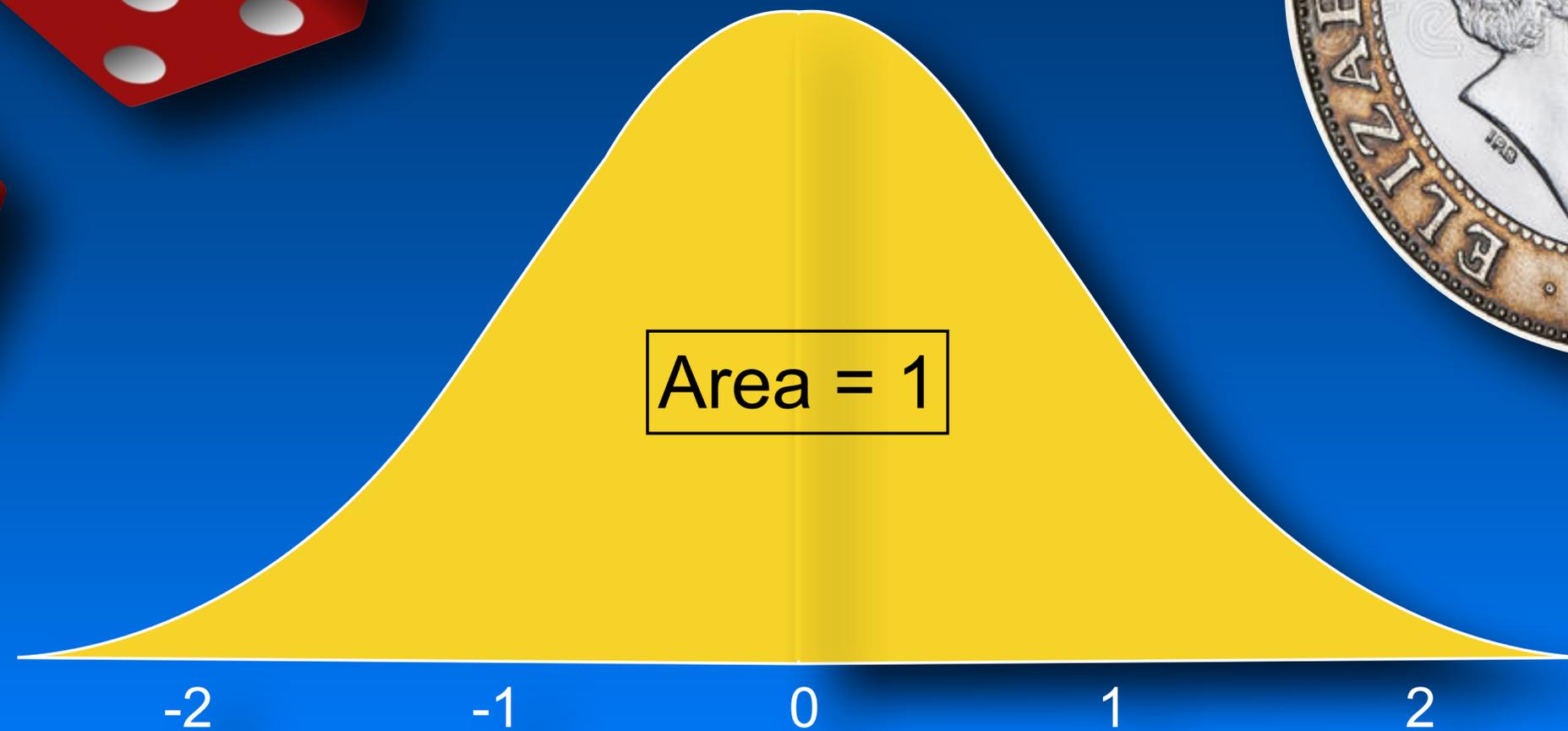
## Describing Patterns of Variation



# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference

---

Probability



# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference

---

## Probability

The branch of mathematics concerned with numerical descriptions of how likely an event will occur or a proposition is true.



What is the most common result?

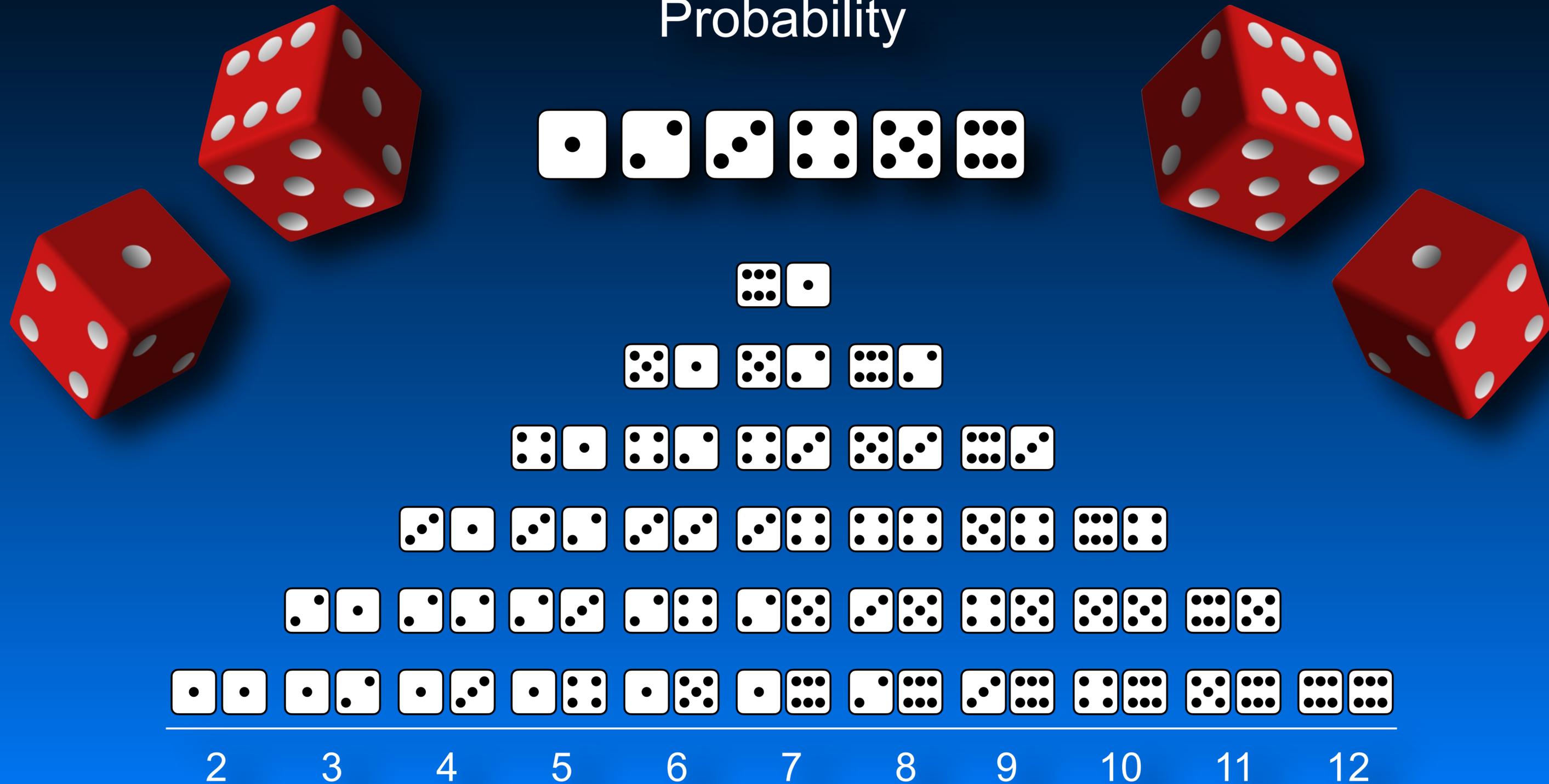
What is the chance we'll roll a 7?

What's the probability of rolling a 7?

# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference

---

Probability



# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference

---

## Probability

The branch of mathematics concerned with numerical descriptions of how likely an event will occur or a proposition is true.



What is the most common result?

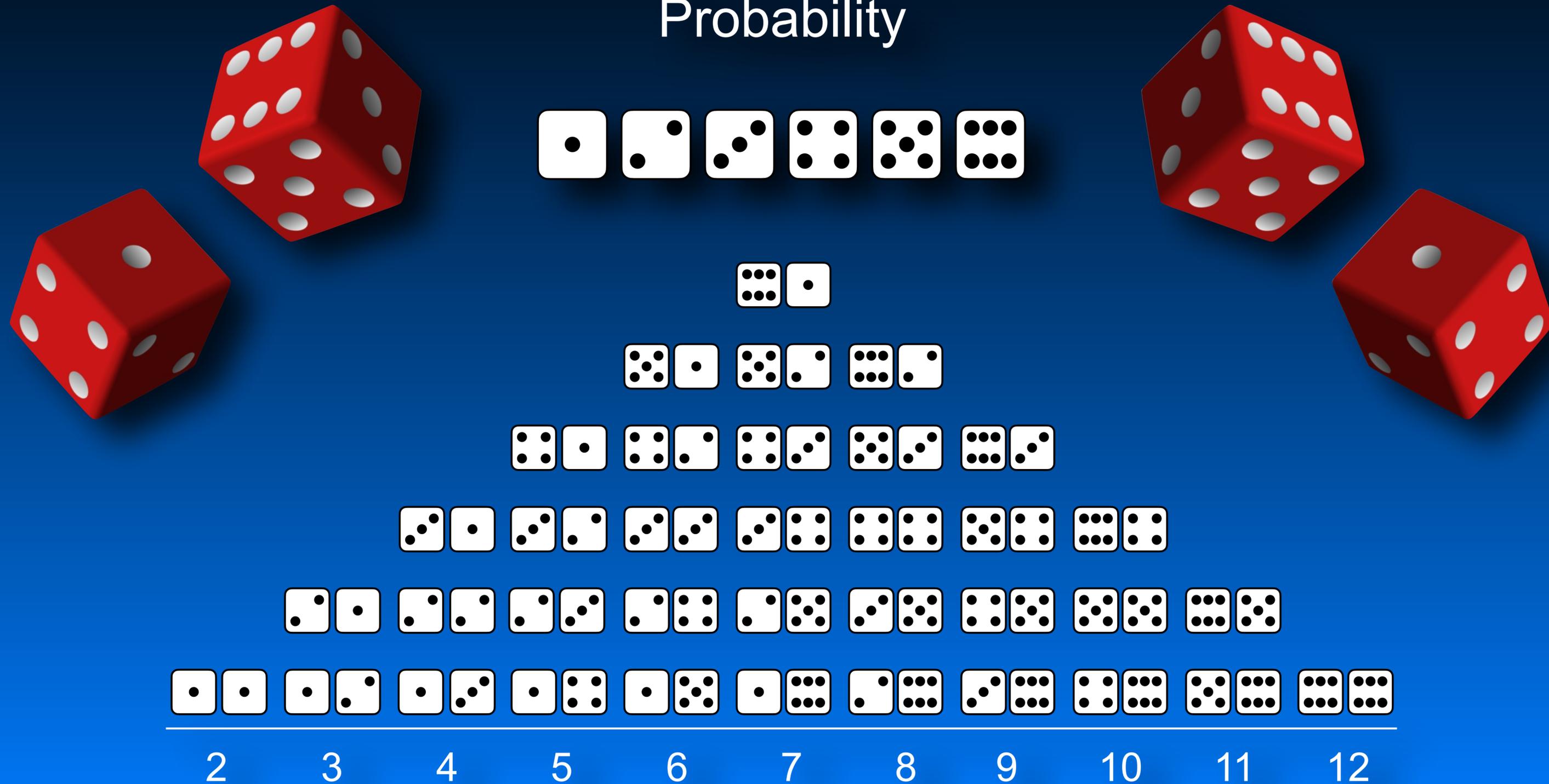
7

What is the chance we'll roll a 7?

# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference

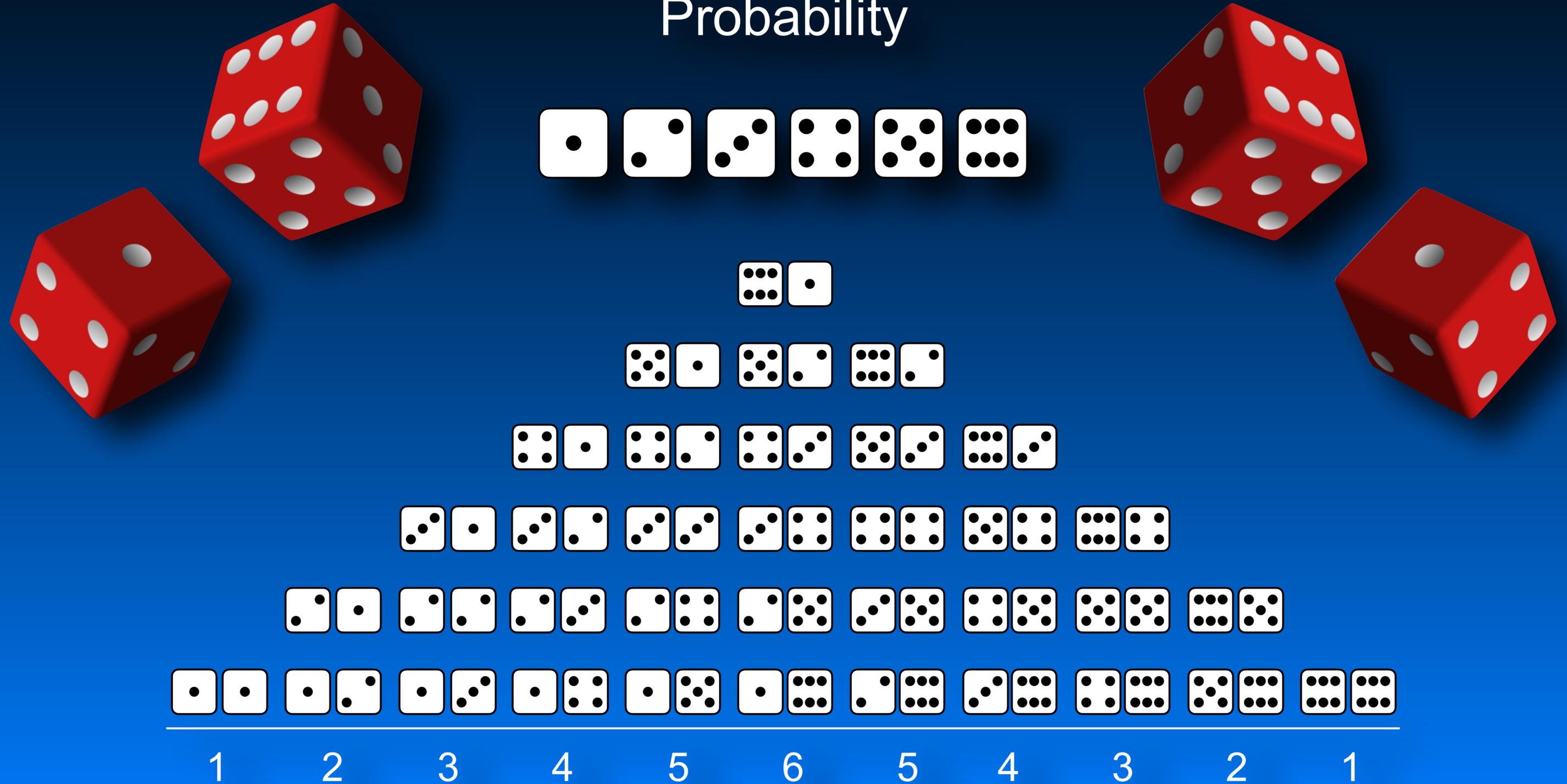
---

Probability



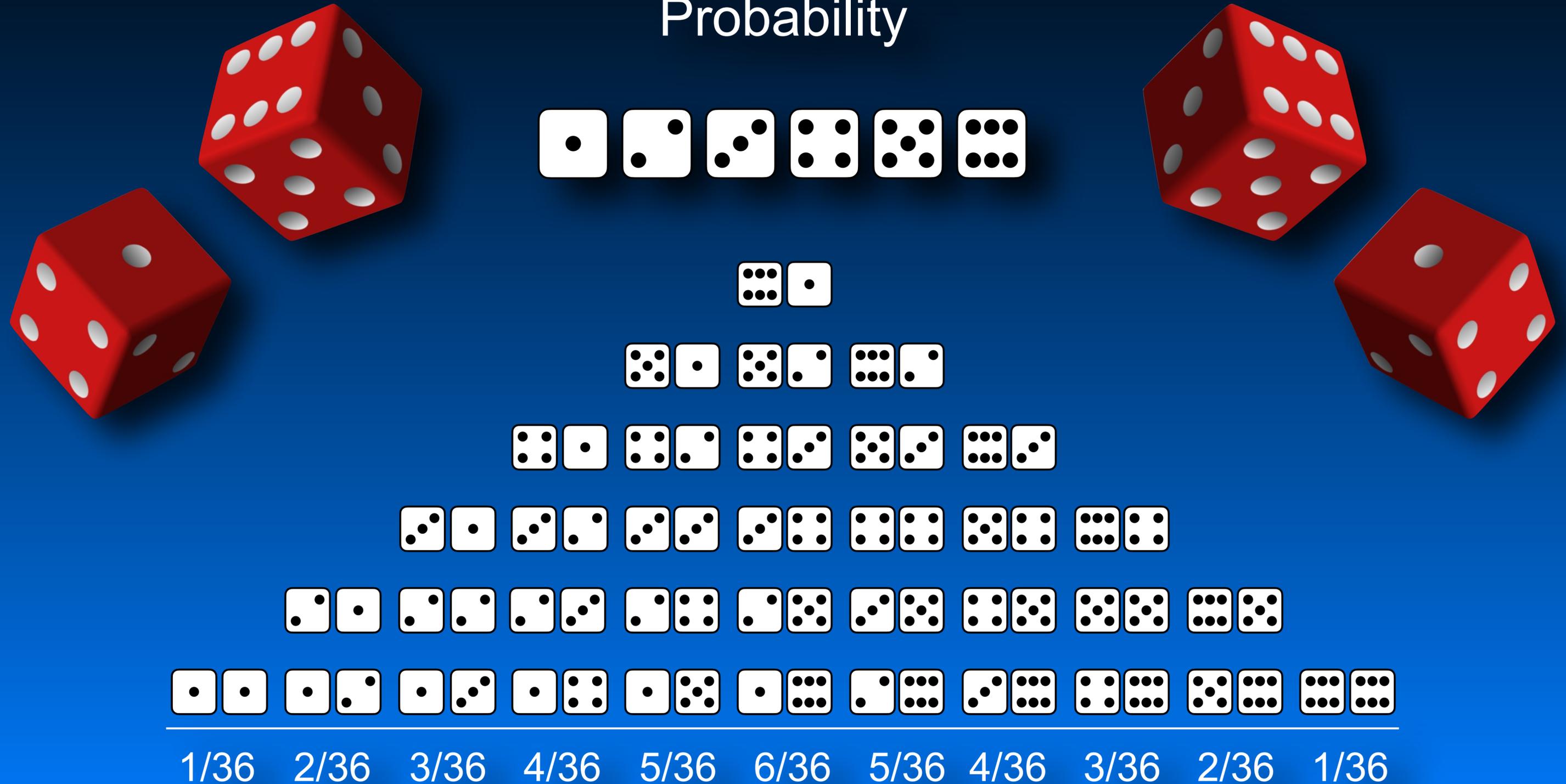
# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference

Probability



# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference

Probability



# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference

---

## Probability

The branch of mathematics concerned with numerical descriptions of how likely an event will occur or a proposition is true.



What is the most common result?

7

# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference

---

## Probability

The branch of mathematics concerned with numerical descriptions of how likely an event will occur or a proposition is true.



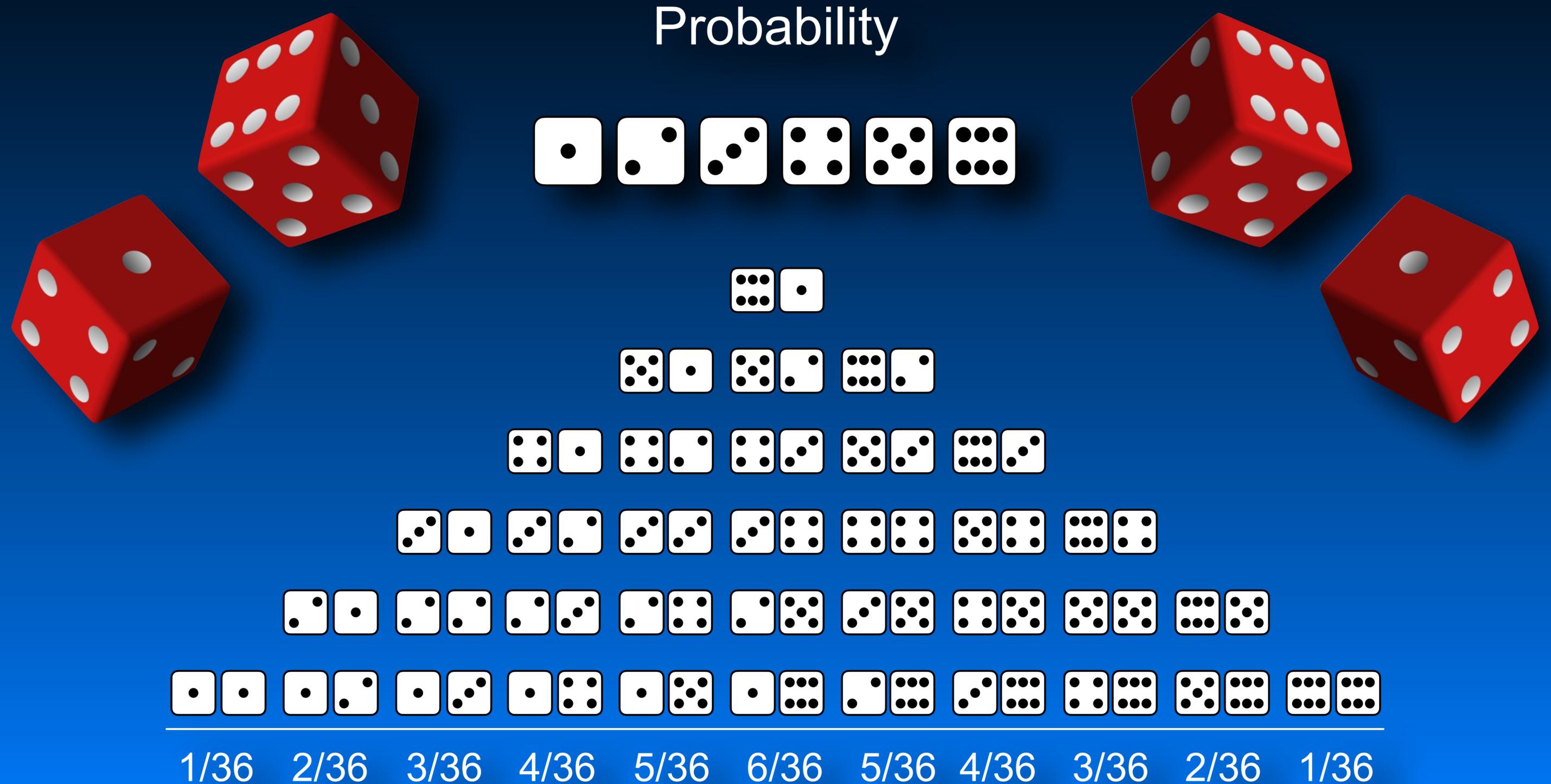
What is the most common result?

7

What is the chance we'll roll a 7?

$6/36$

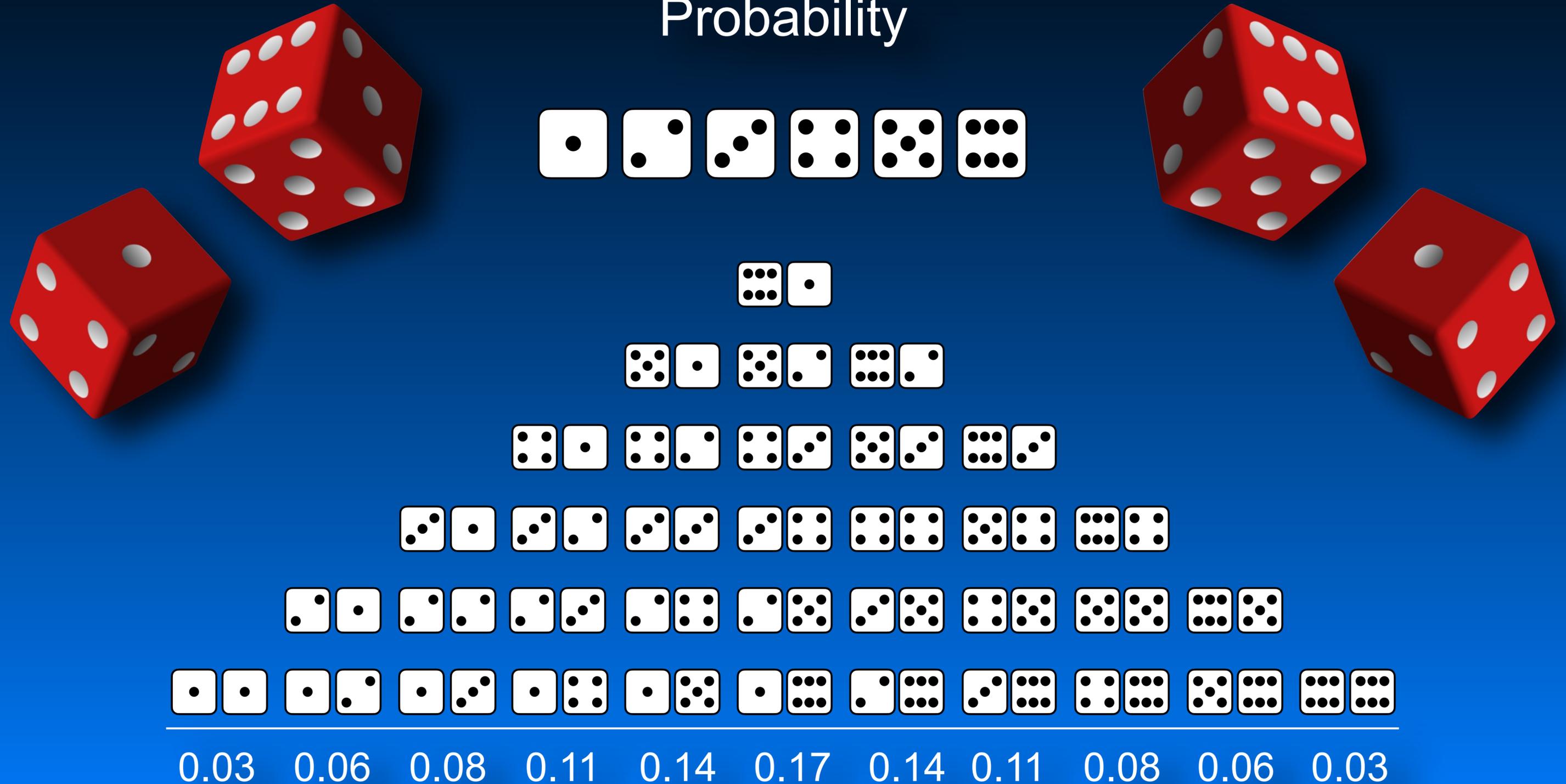
# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference



# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference

---

Probability



# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference

---

## Probability

The branch of mathematics concerned with numerical descriptions of how likely an event will occur or a proposition is true.



What is the most common result?

7

What is the chance we'll roll a 7?

$6/36$

What's the probability of rolling a 7?

16.67%

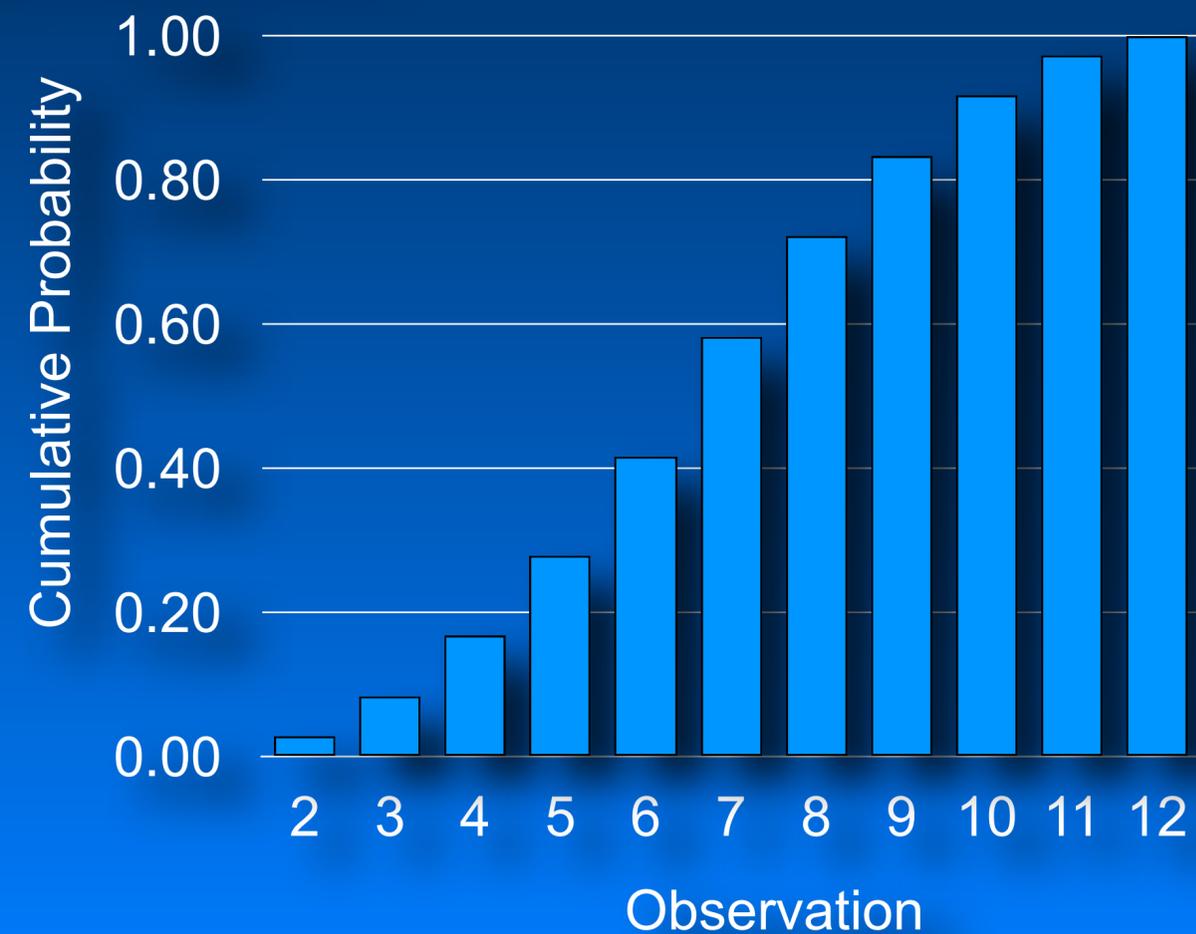
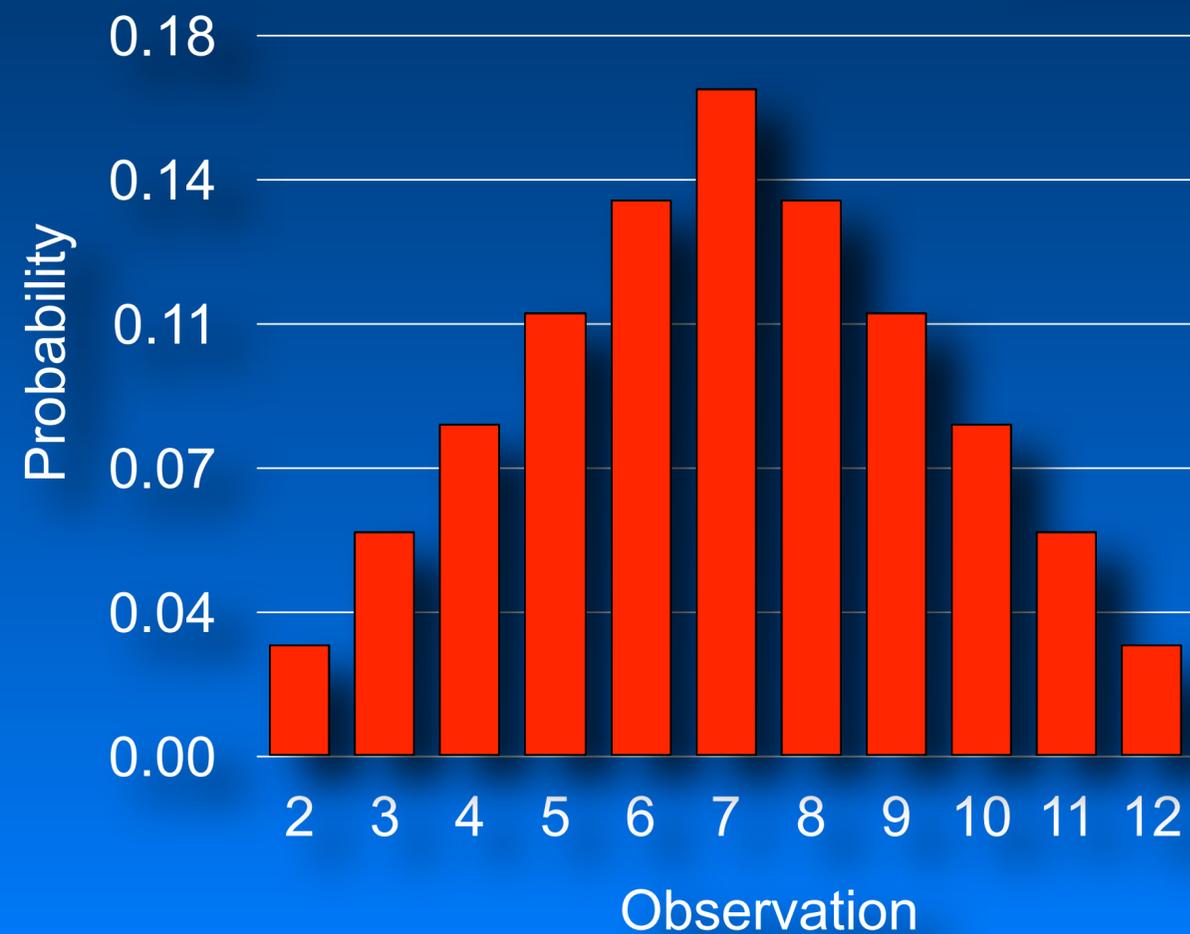
# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference



Probability



Discrete Probability Distribution



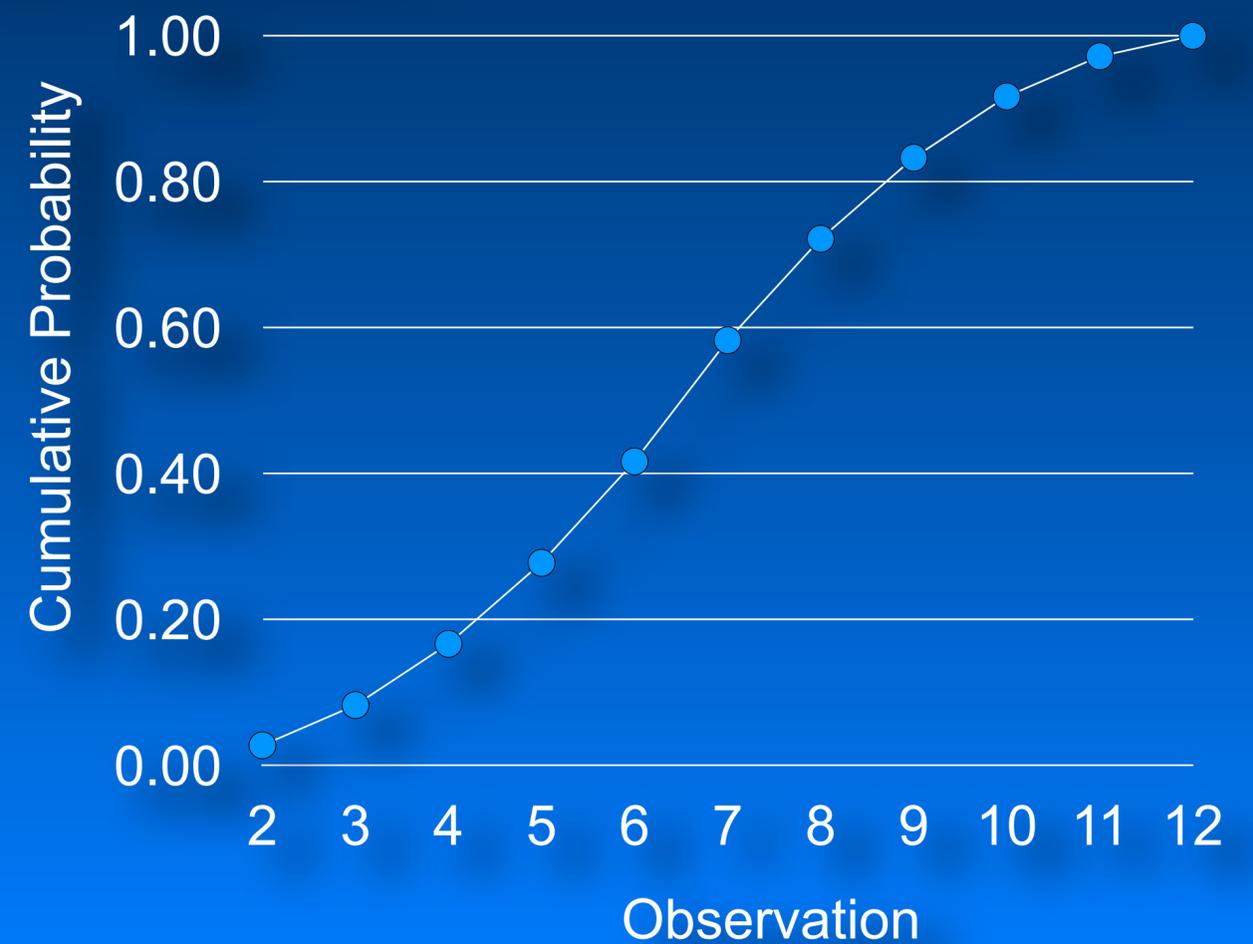
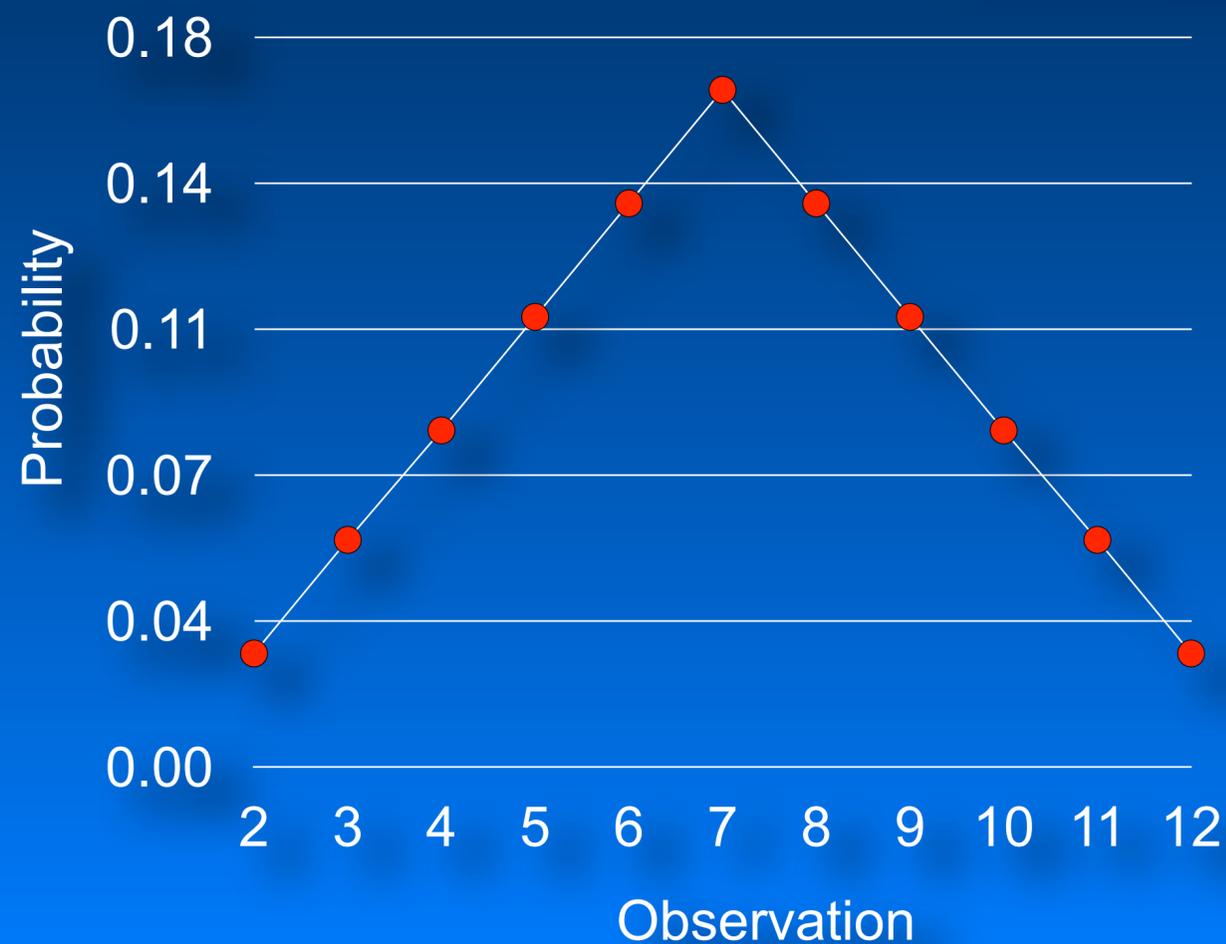
# Statistics as Probabilistic Inference



Probability



Continuous Probability Distribution

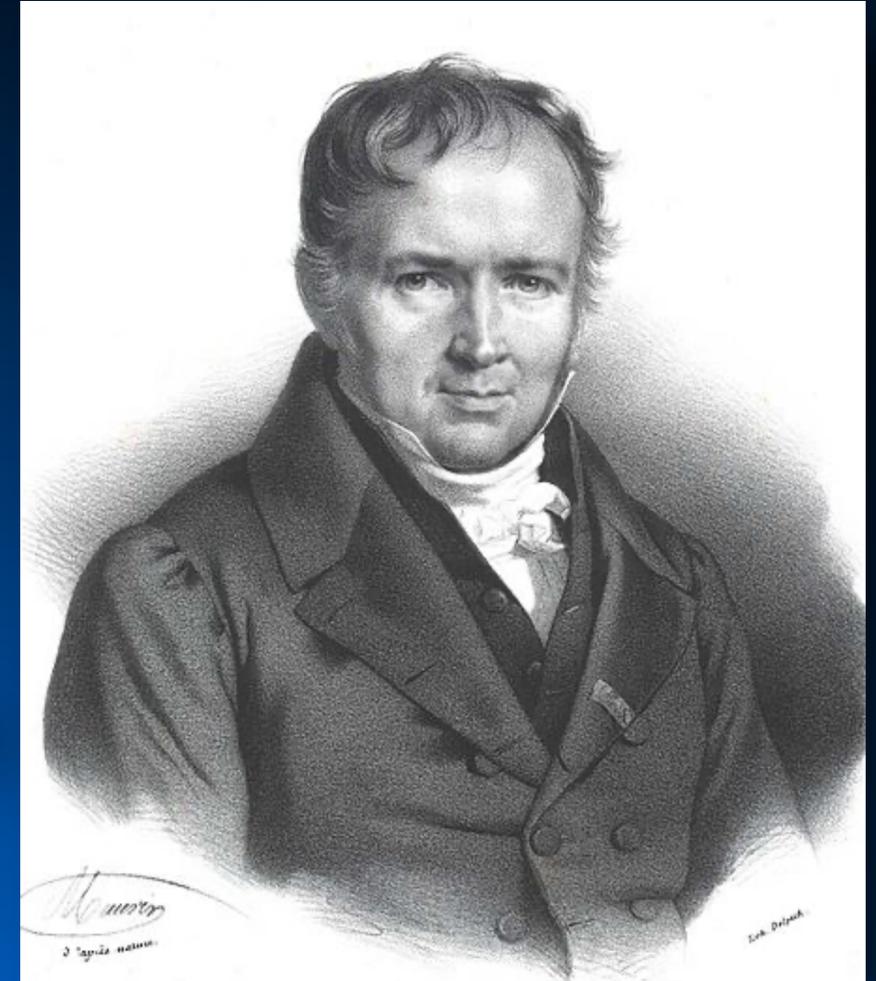


# Frequentist Inference

---

Assumes any given experiment can be considered as one of an infinite sequence of possible repetitions of the same experiment, each capable of producing a statistically independent result. Under this approach the conclusion is drawn by locating empirical results within this hypothetical set of repetitions.

Unknown parameters are usually treated as having fixed, but unknown, values that are not capable of being treated as random variates themselves. Accordingly, there is no way to associate probabilities with unknown parameters under a frequentist approach to probabilistic inference.



Siméon Poisson  
(1781 – 1840)

# Statistics for Hypothesis Testing

## Basic Concepts

**Population** - the totality of individual observations existing within a specified area and/or time.

**Sample** - the subset of the population containing individual specimens from which data have been collected.



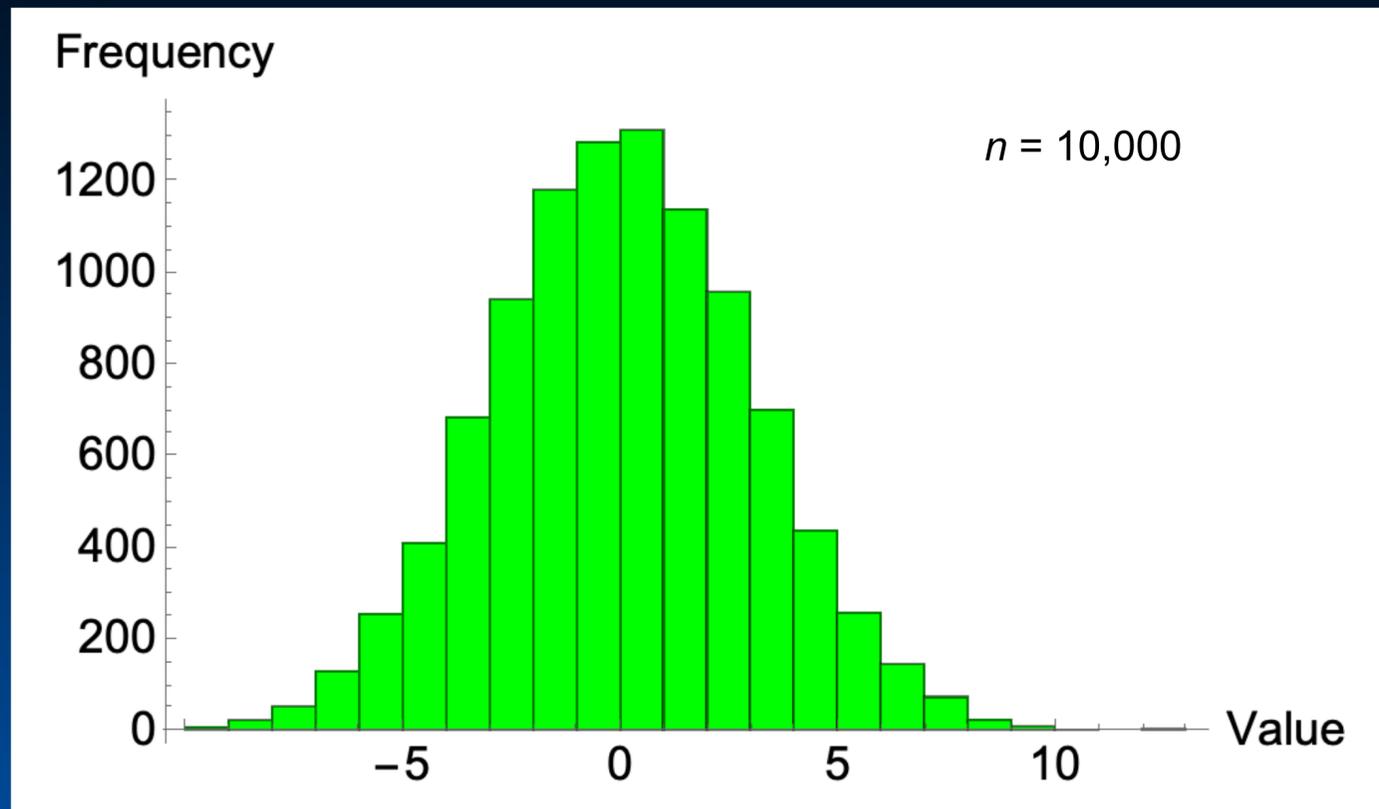
Biased Sample?



Random Sample



# The Normal Distribution



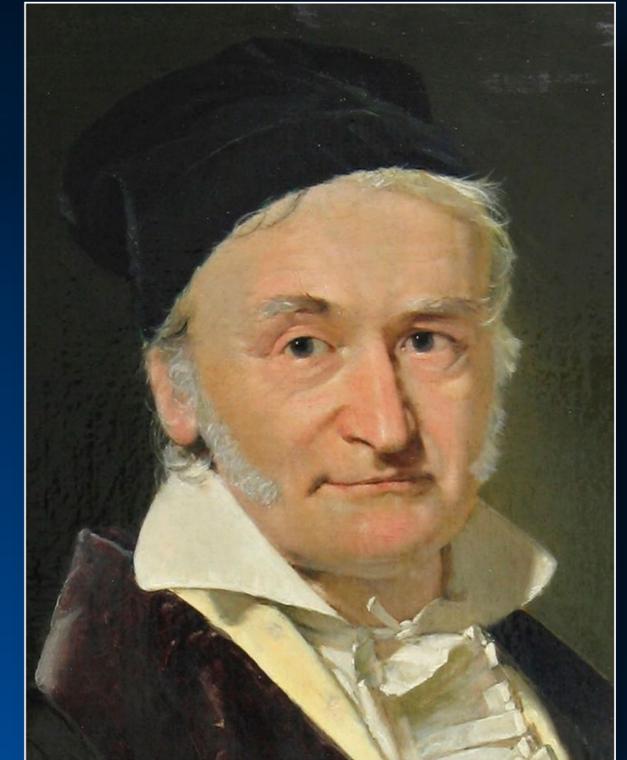
$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

where:  $i = i^{\text{th}}$  observation

$\mu =$  population mean

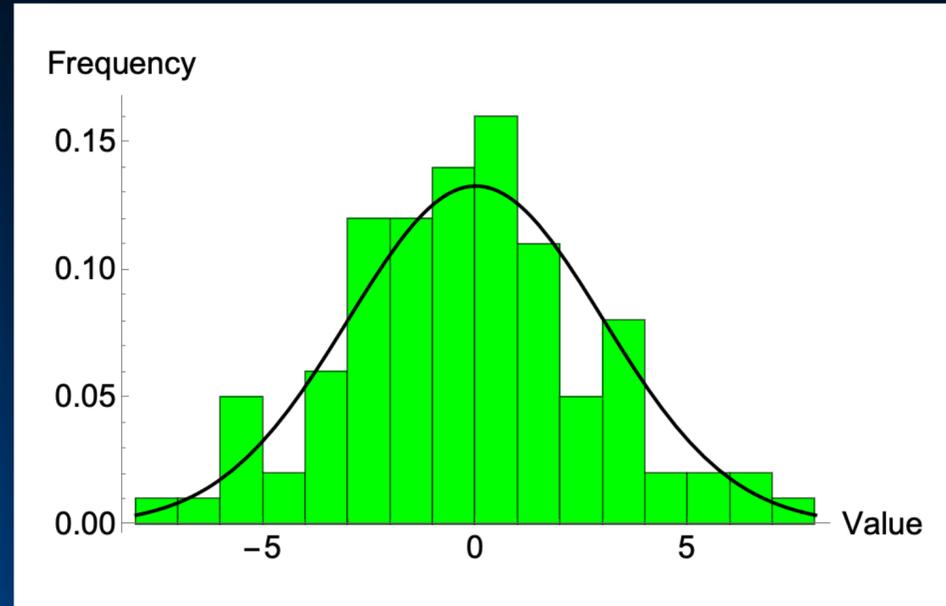
$\sigma =$  population standard deviation

- Approximates the expected distribution of observations being influenced by many random factors.
- Is the distribution of many derived descriptive statistical summaries (e.g., means)

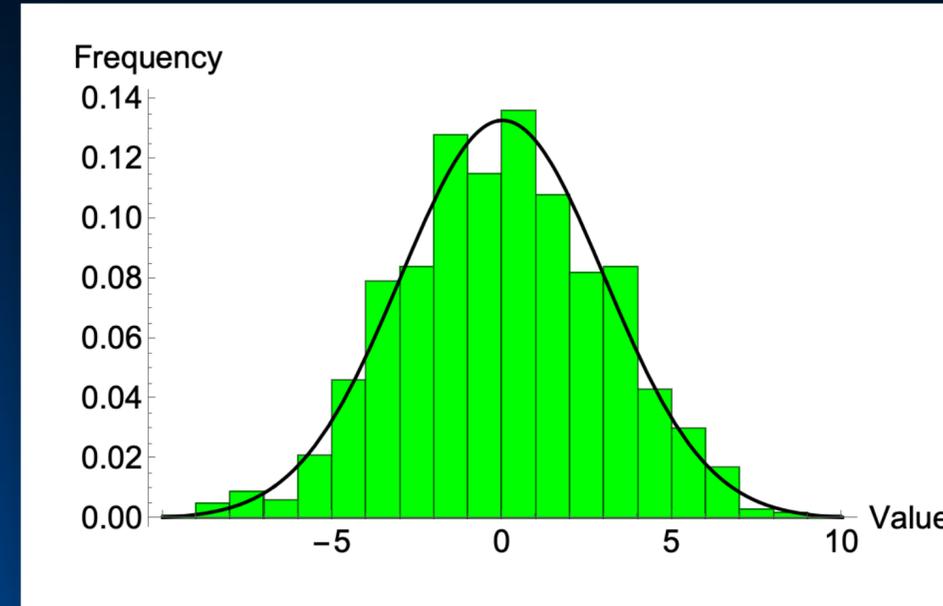


Carl Friedrich Gauss  
(1777 – 1855)

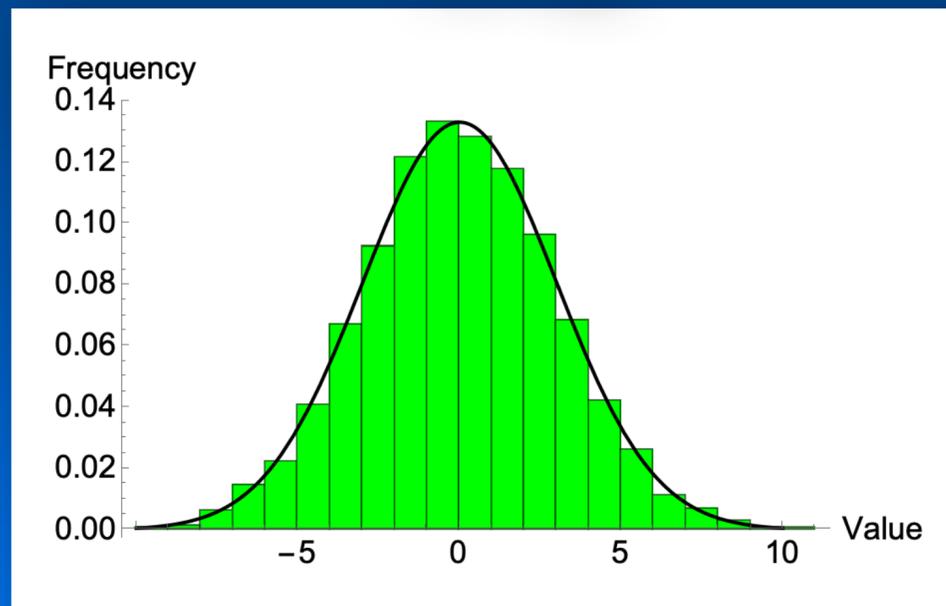
# The Normal Distribution



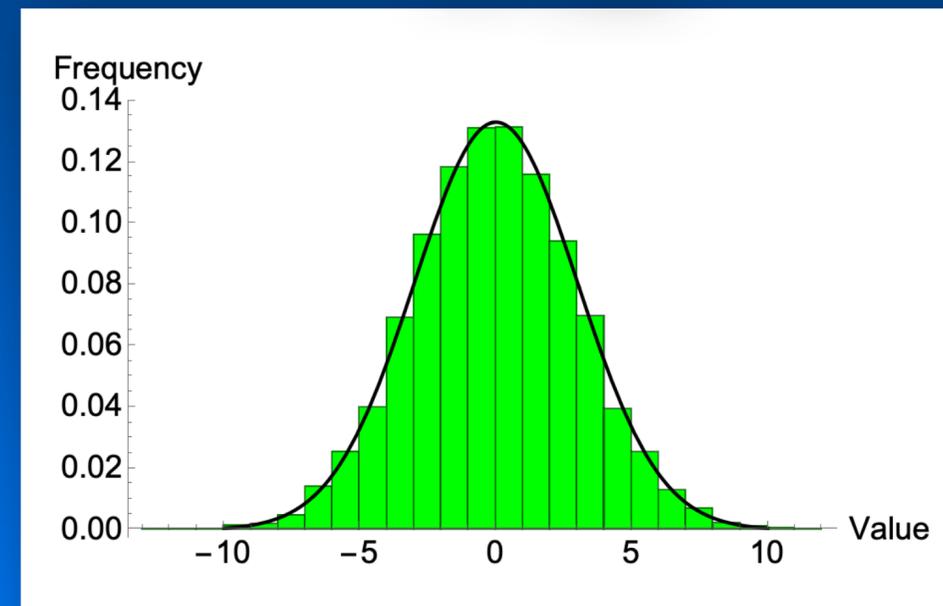
$n = 100$



$n = 1,000$

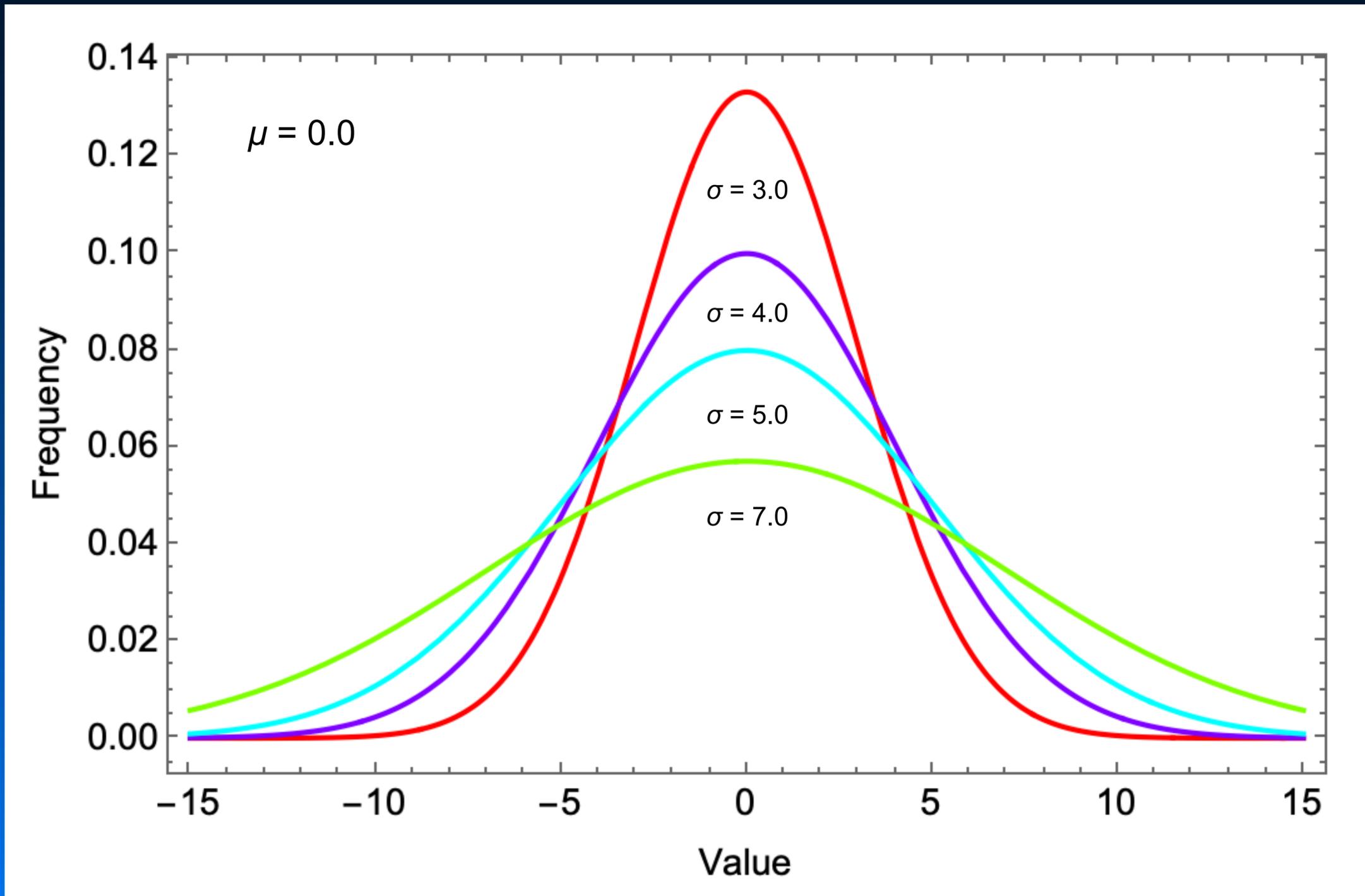


$n = 5,000$

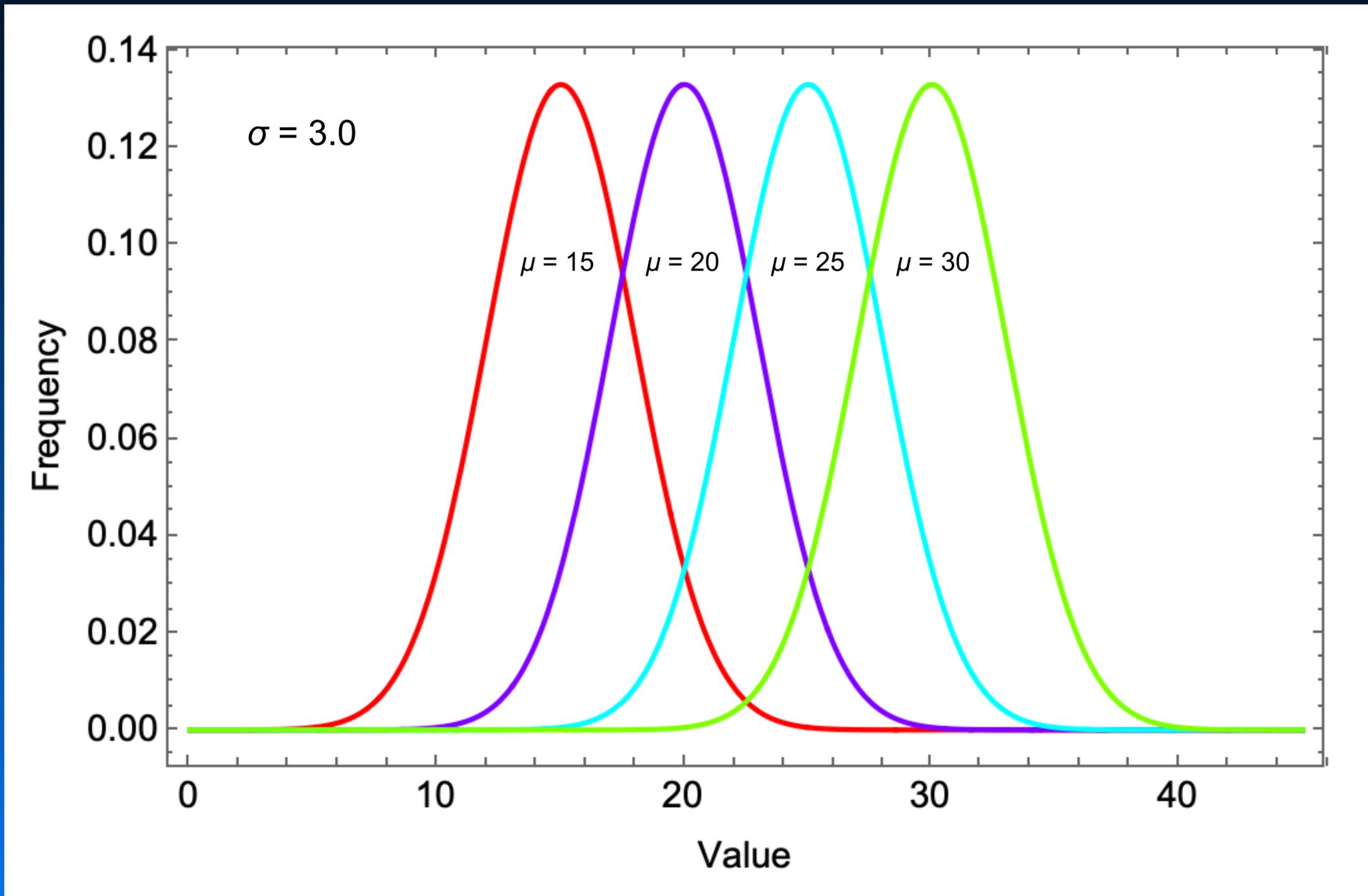


$n = 10,000$

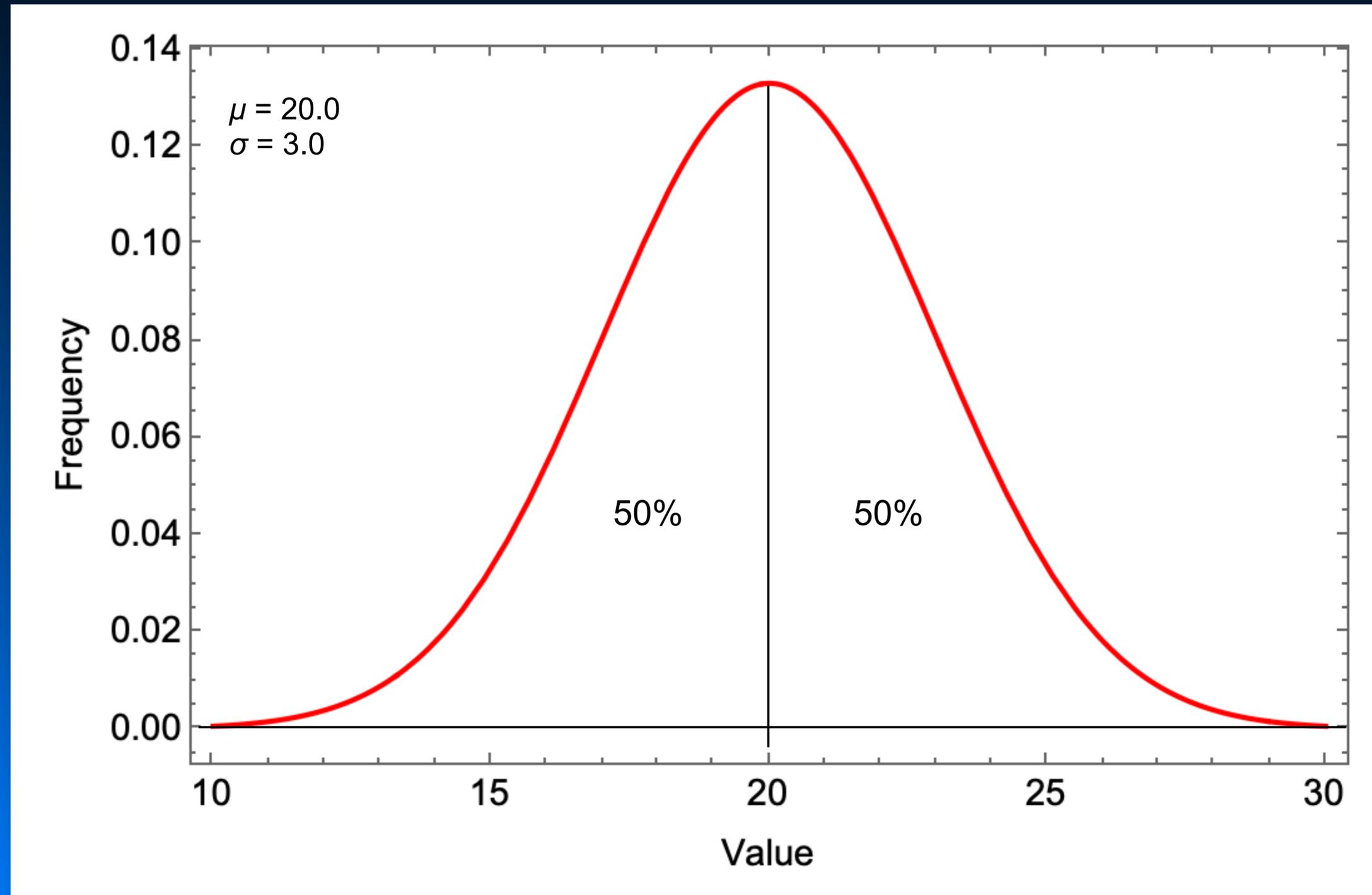
# The Normal Distribution



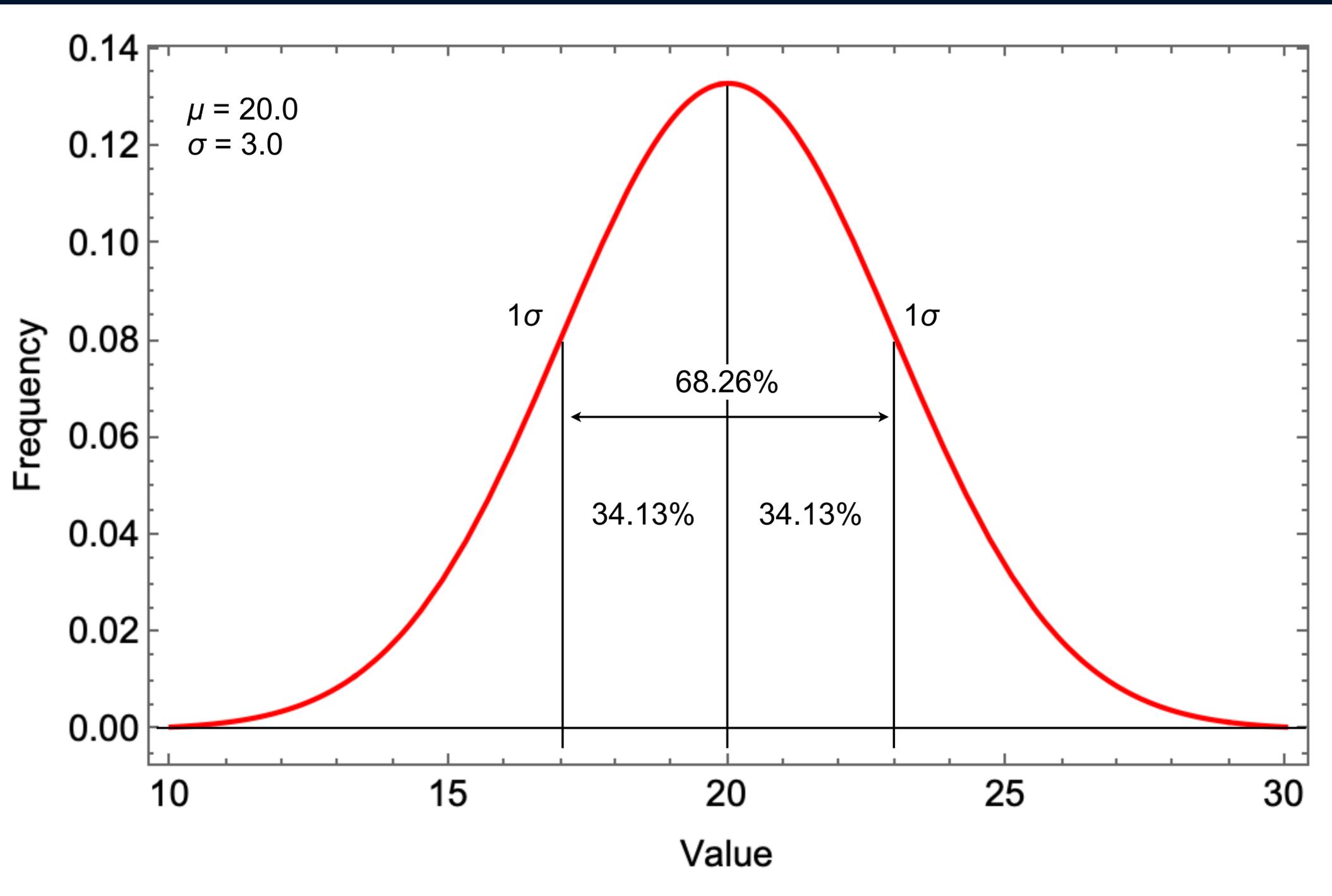
# The Normal Distribution



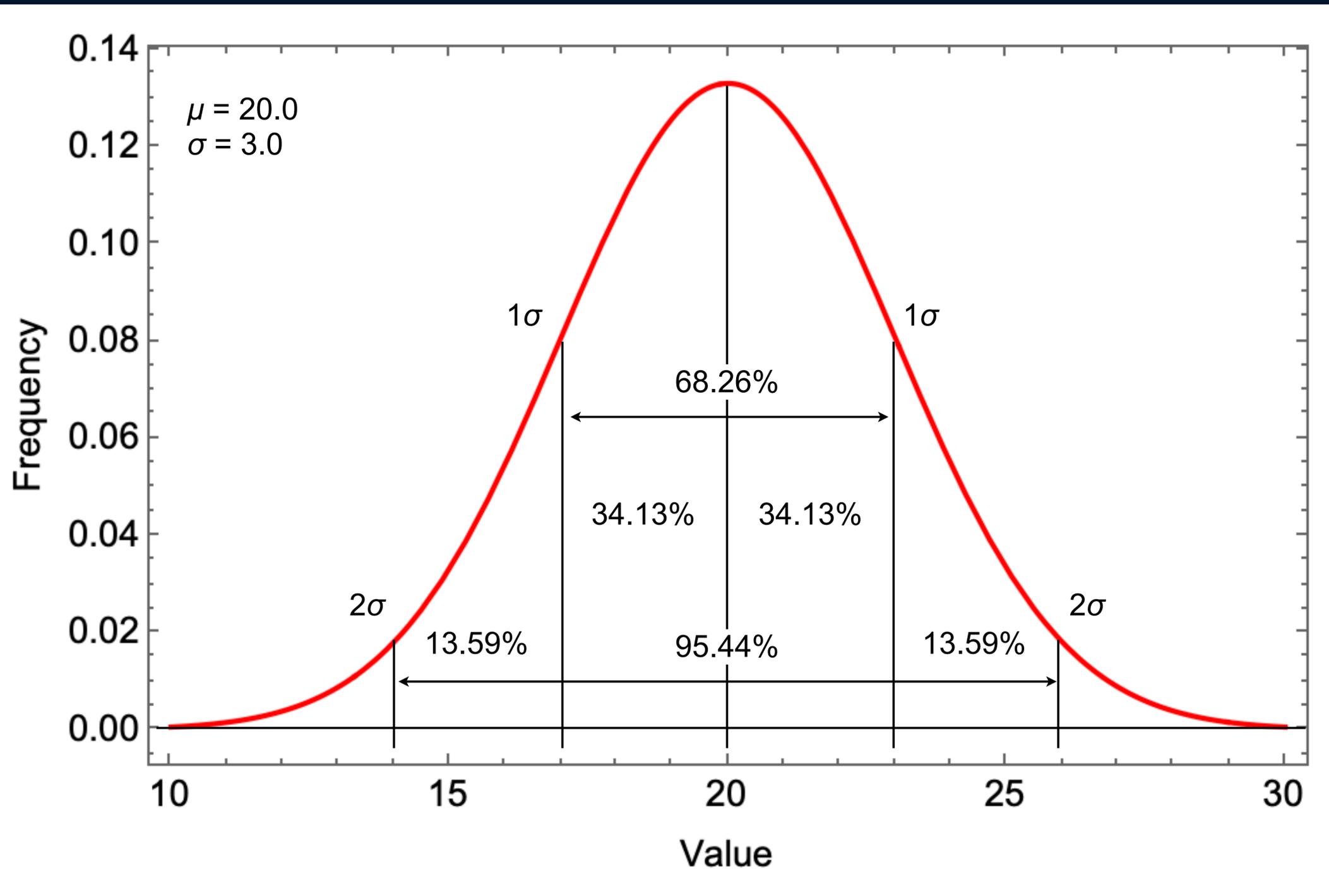
# The Normal Distribution



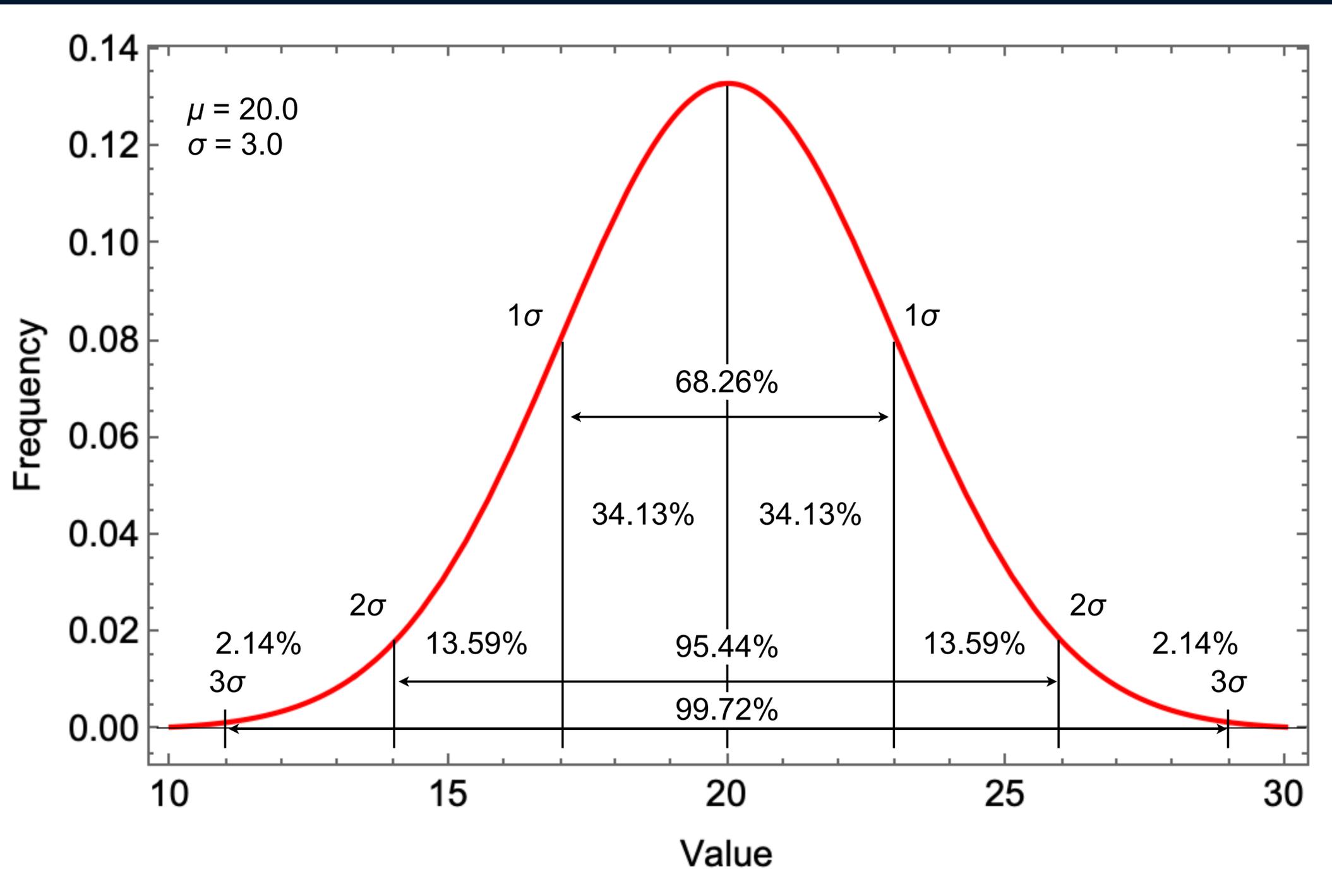
# The Normal Distribution



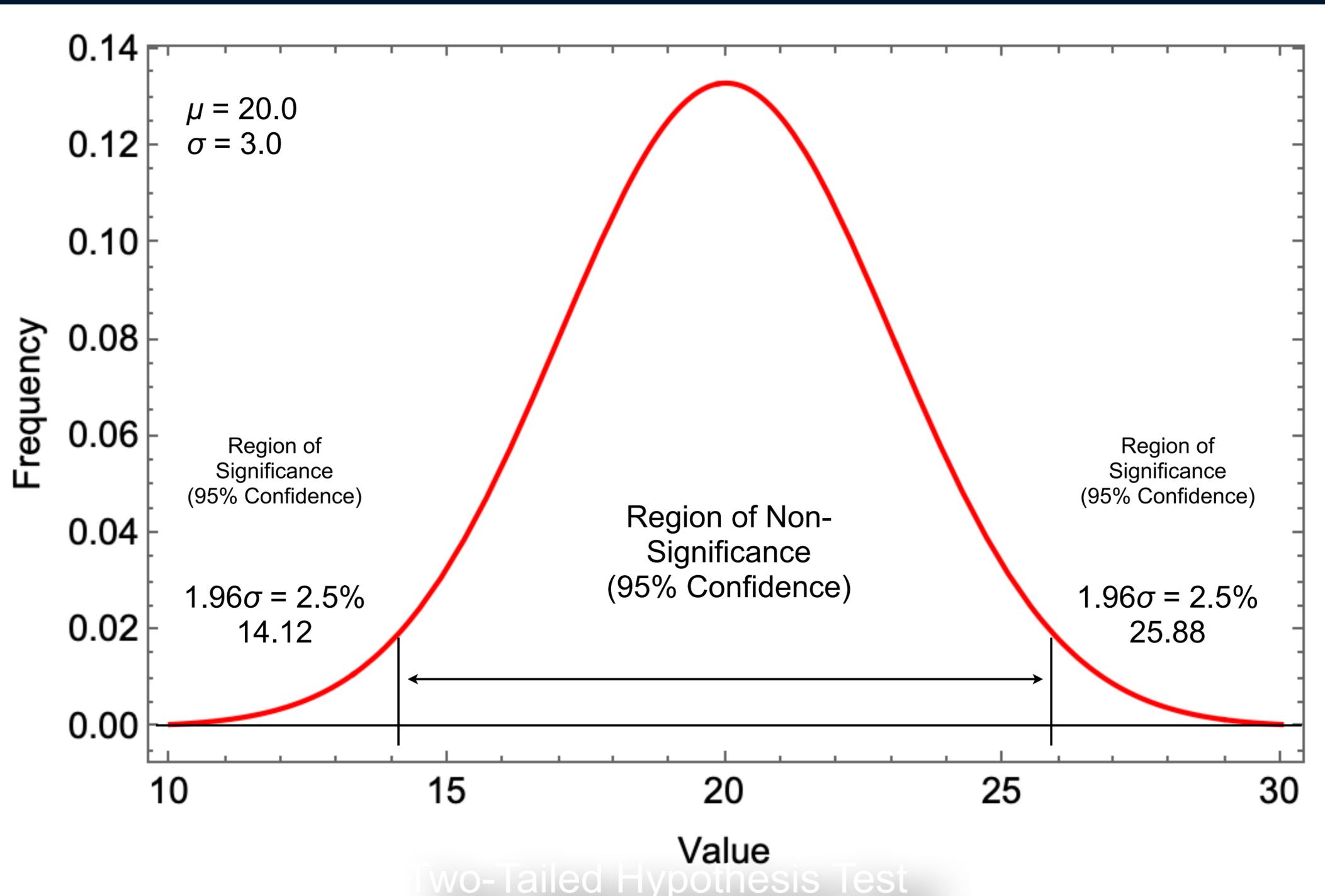
# The Normal Distribution



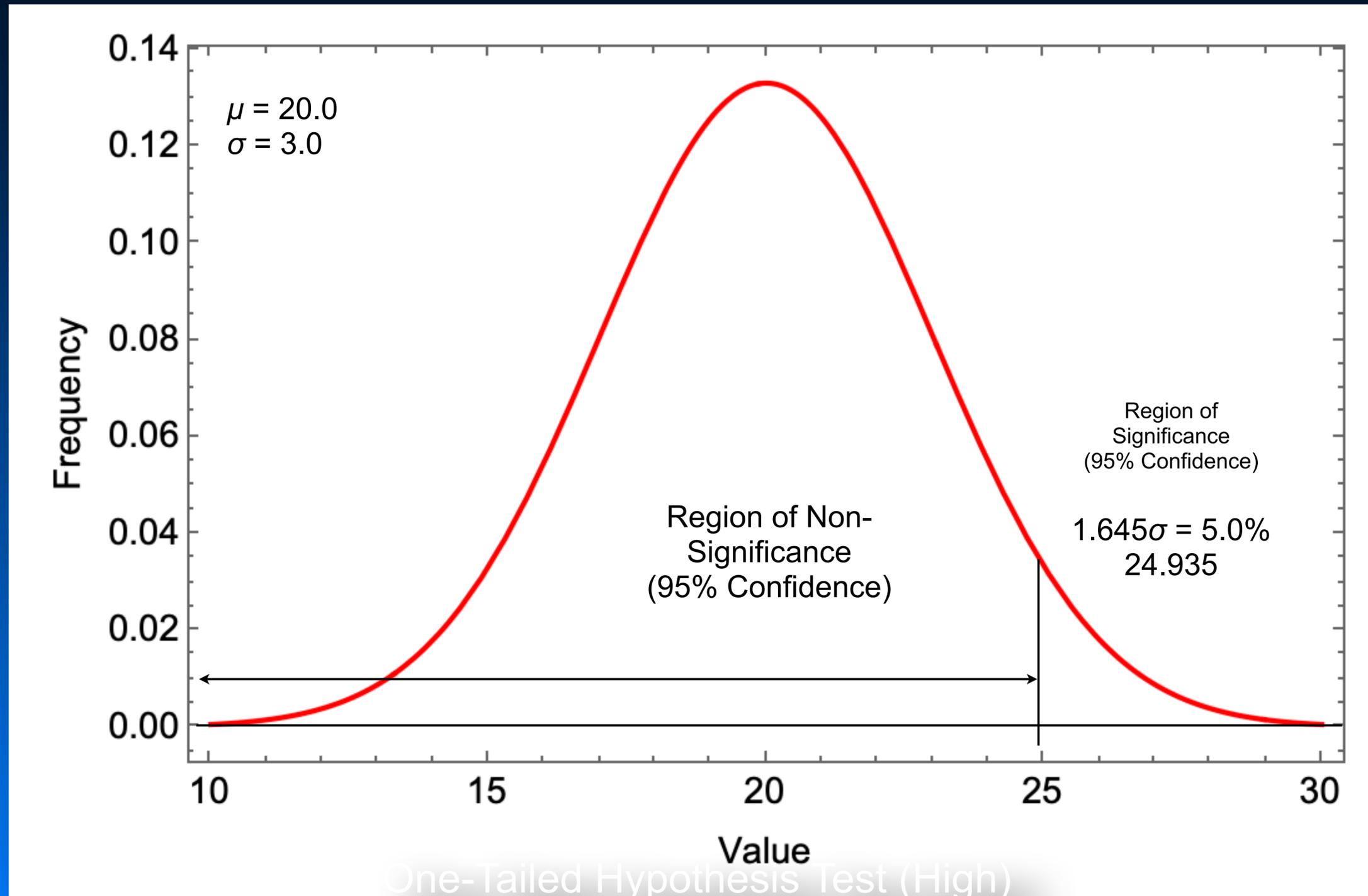
# The Normal Distribution



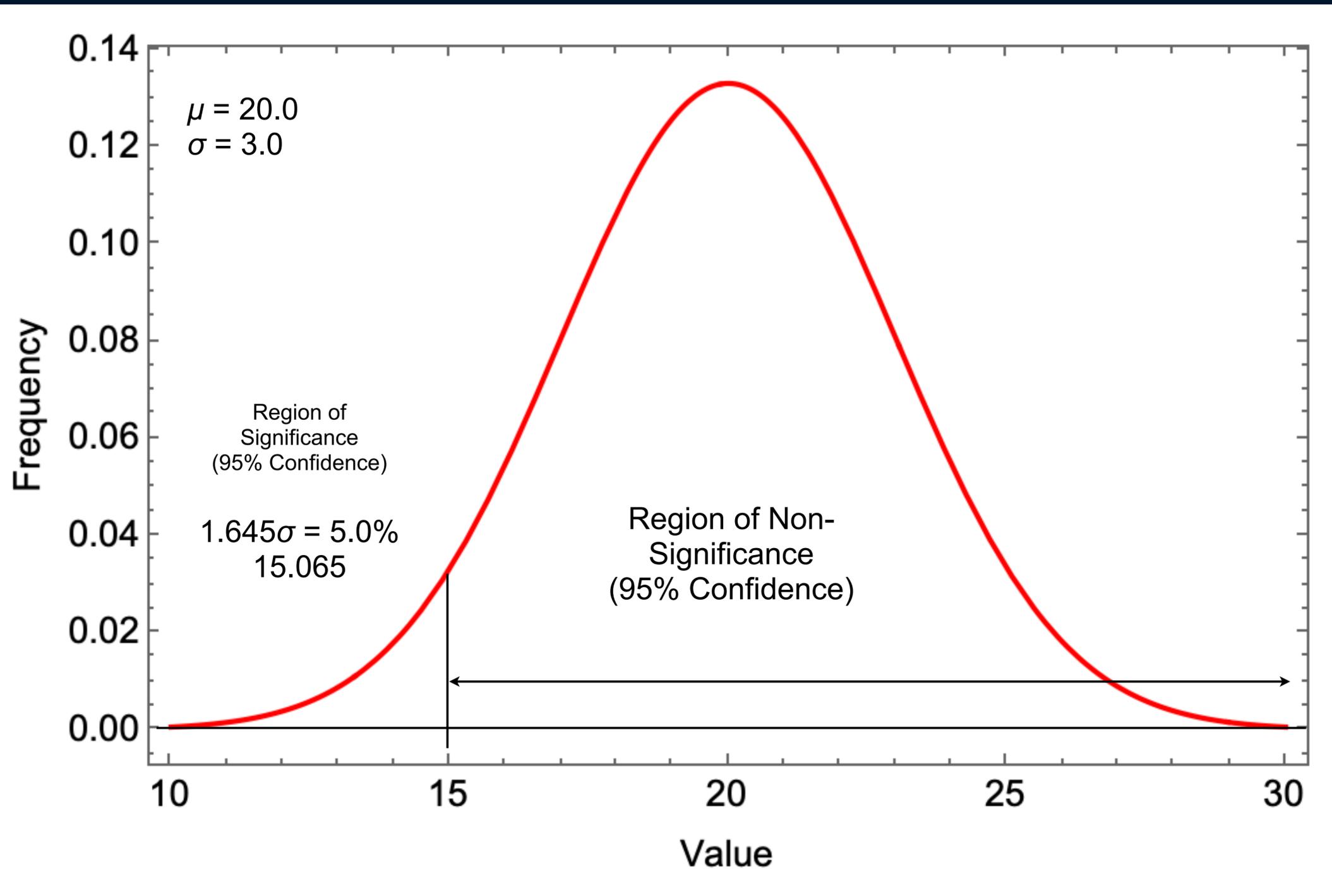
# The Normal Distribution



# The Normal Distribution



# The Normal Distribution



# Statistics as Hypothesis Testing

---



## An Example

We have a sample of 48 trilobites that we have obtained length data from.

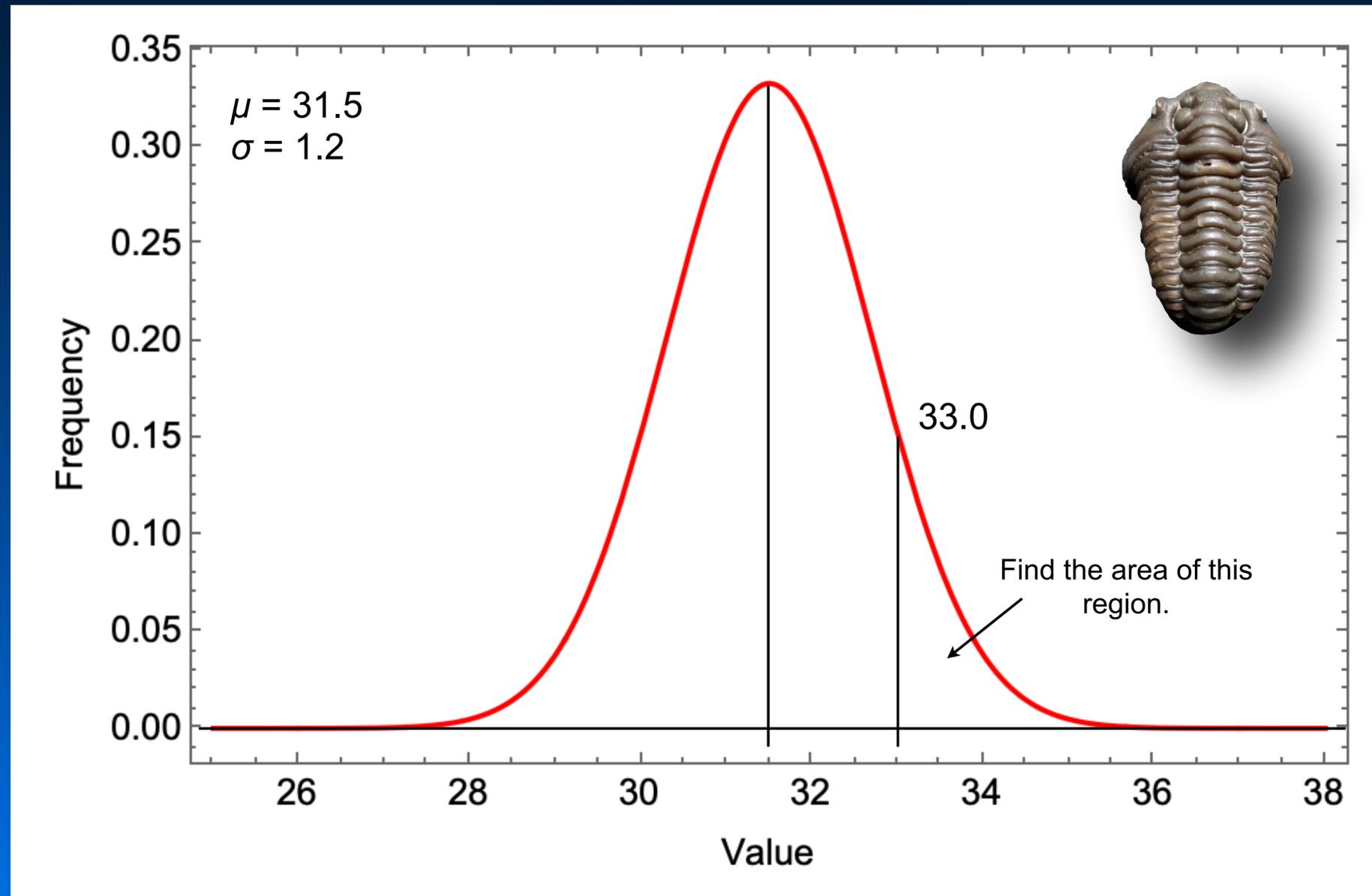
$$\mu = 31.5 \text{ mm}$$

$$\sigma = 1.2 \text{ mm}$$

If we assume the distribution of trilobite lengths is normal, what is the probability we will find specimens whose lengths are  $\geq 33.0$  mm?

# Statistics as Hypothesis Testing

## An Example



One-Tailed Hypothesis Test (High)

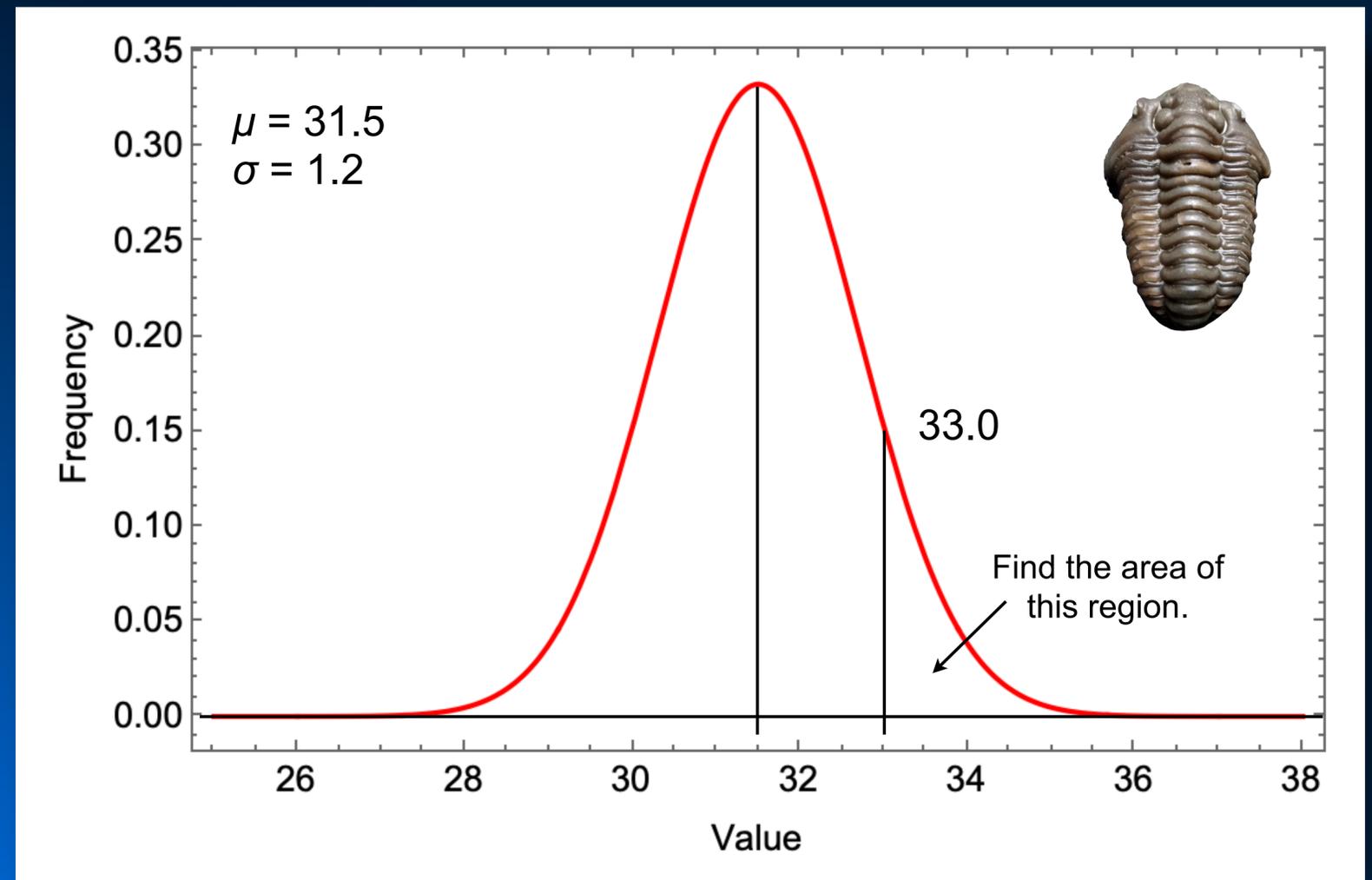
# Statistics as Hypothesis Testing

## An Example

$$z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}$$

$$z = \frac{33.0 - 31.5}{1.2}$$

$$z = 1.25$$



# Statistics as Hypothesis Testing

## An Example

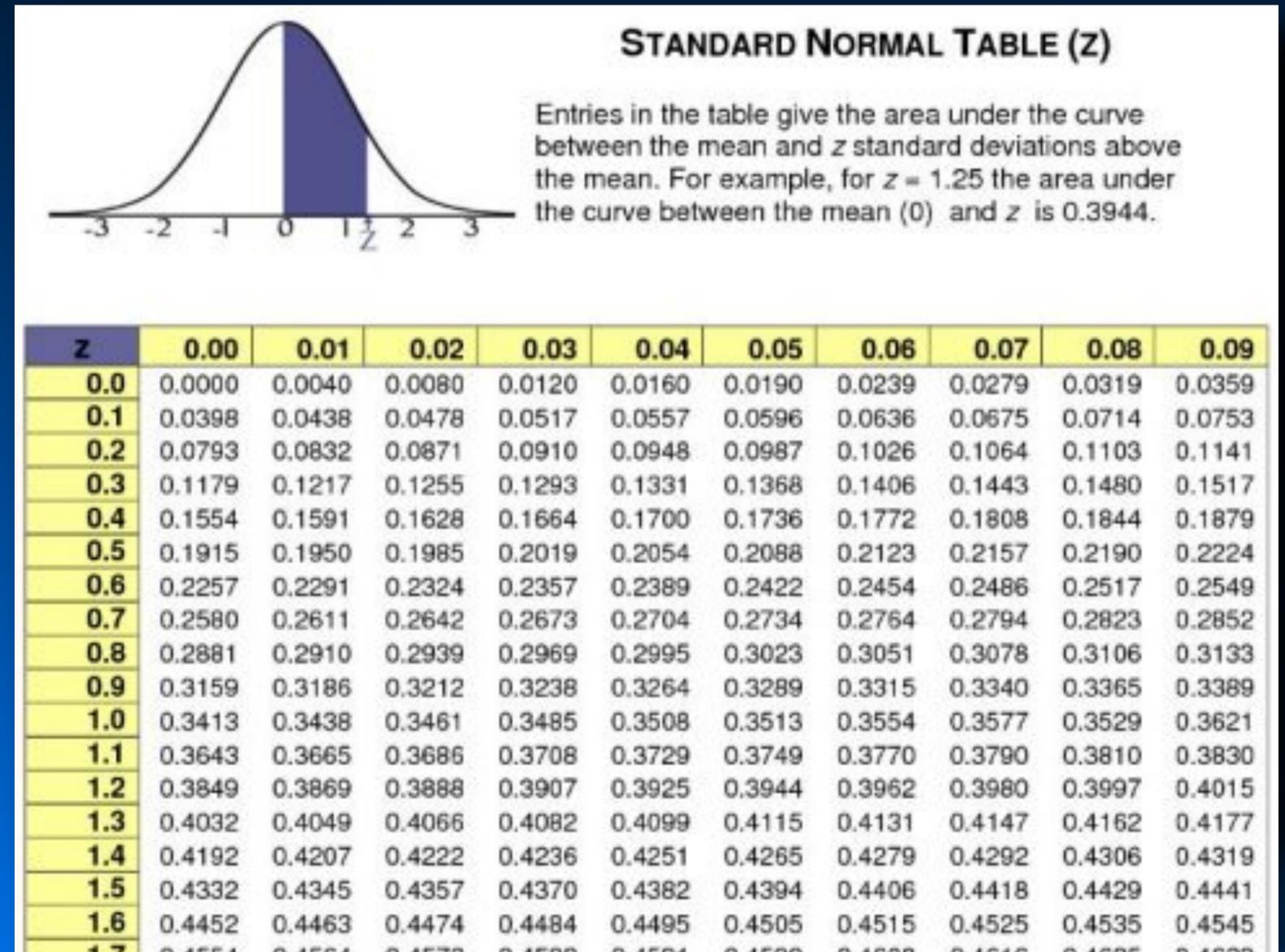
$$z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}$$

$$z = \frac{33.0 - 31.5}{1.2}$$

$$z = 1.25$$

$$1.25 = 0.5 - 0.3944$$

$$1.25 = 0.1056 = 10.56\%$$



# Statistics as Hypothesis Testing

---



## An Example

We have a sample of 48 trilobites that we have obtained length data from.

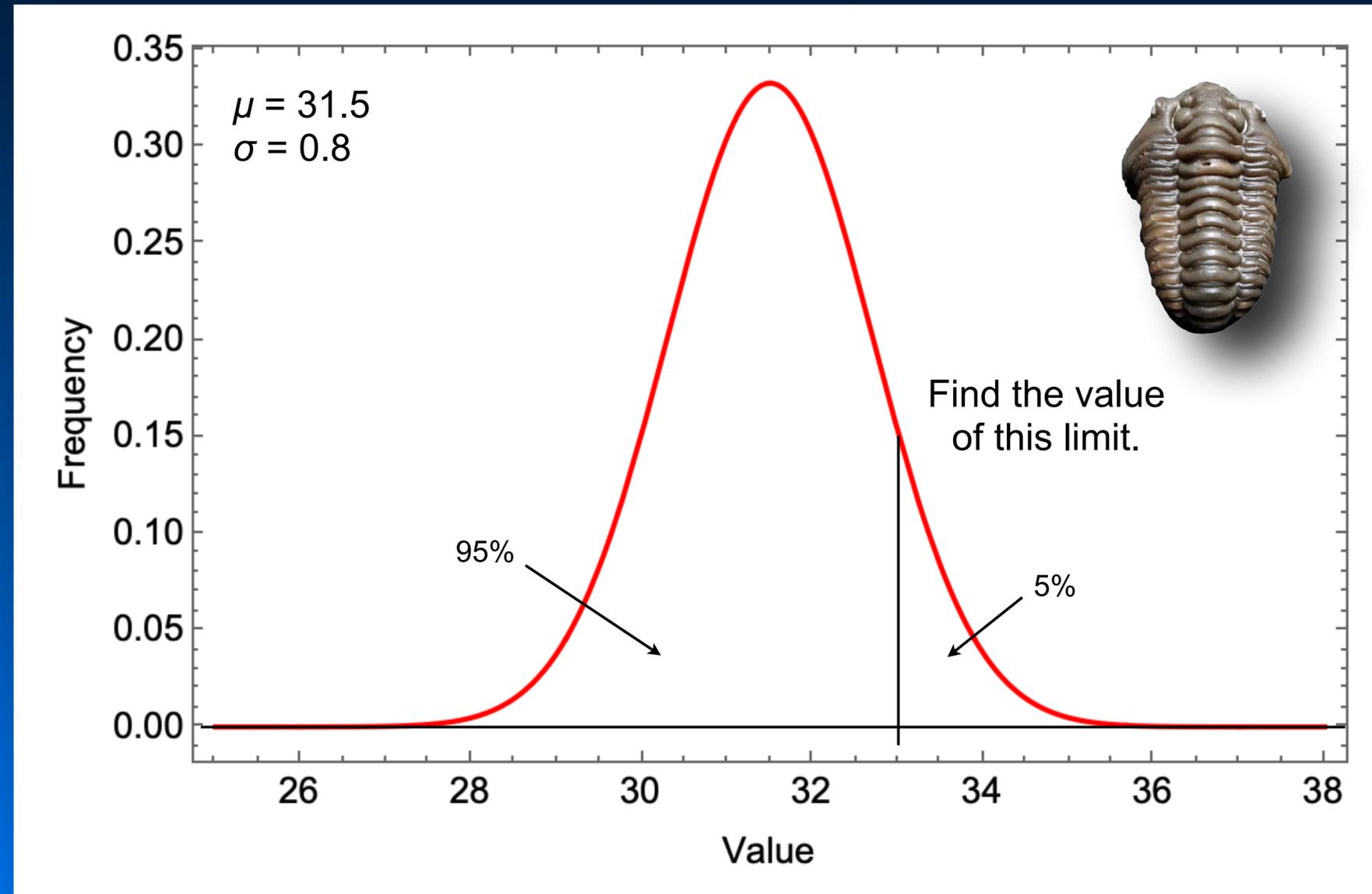
$$\mu = 31.5 \text{ mm}$$

$$\sigma = 0.8 \text{ mm}$$

If we assume the distribution of trilobite lengths is normal, what is the limit beyond which we be 95% confident of not expecting to find trilobites of this species?

# Statistics as Hypothesis Testing

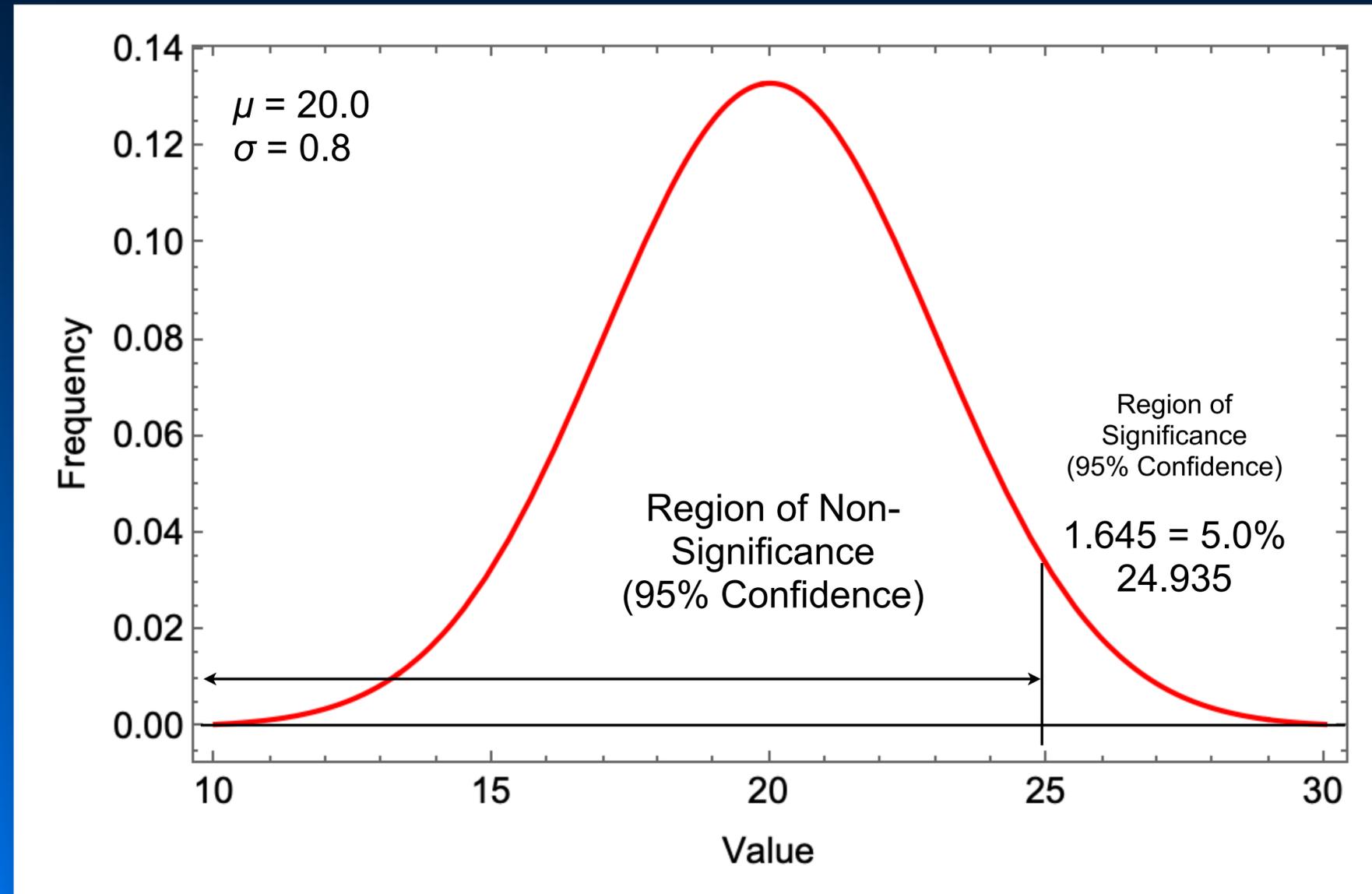
## An Example



One-Tailed Hypothesis Test (High)

# Statistics as Hypothesis Testing

## The Normal Distribution



One-Tailed Hypothesis Test (High)

# Statistics as Hypothesis Testing

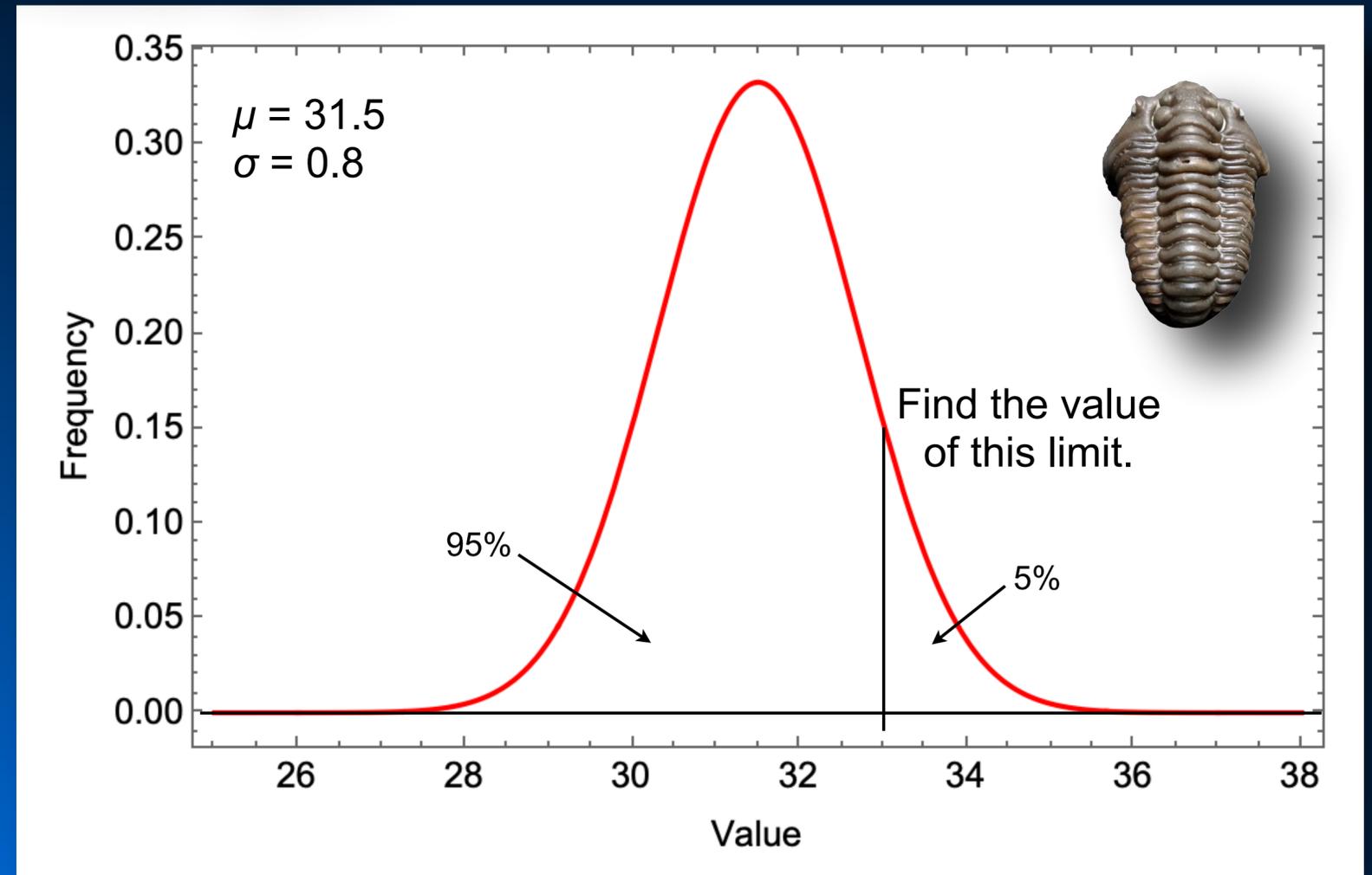
## An Example

$$z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}$$

$$1.645 = \frac{x - 31.5}{0.8}$$

$$x = (1.645 \cdot 0.8) + 31.5$$

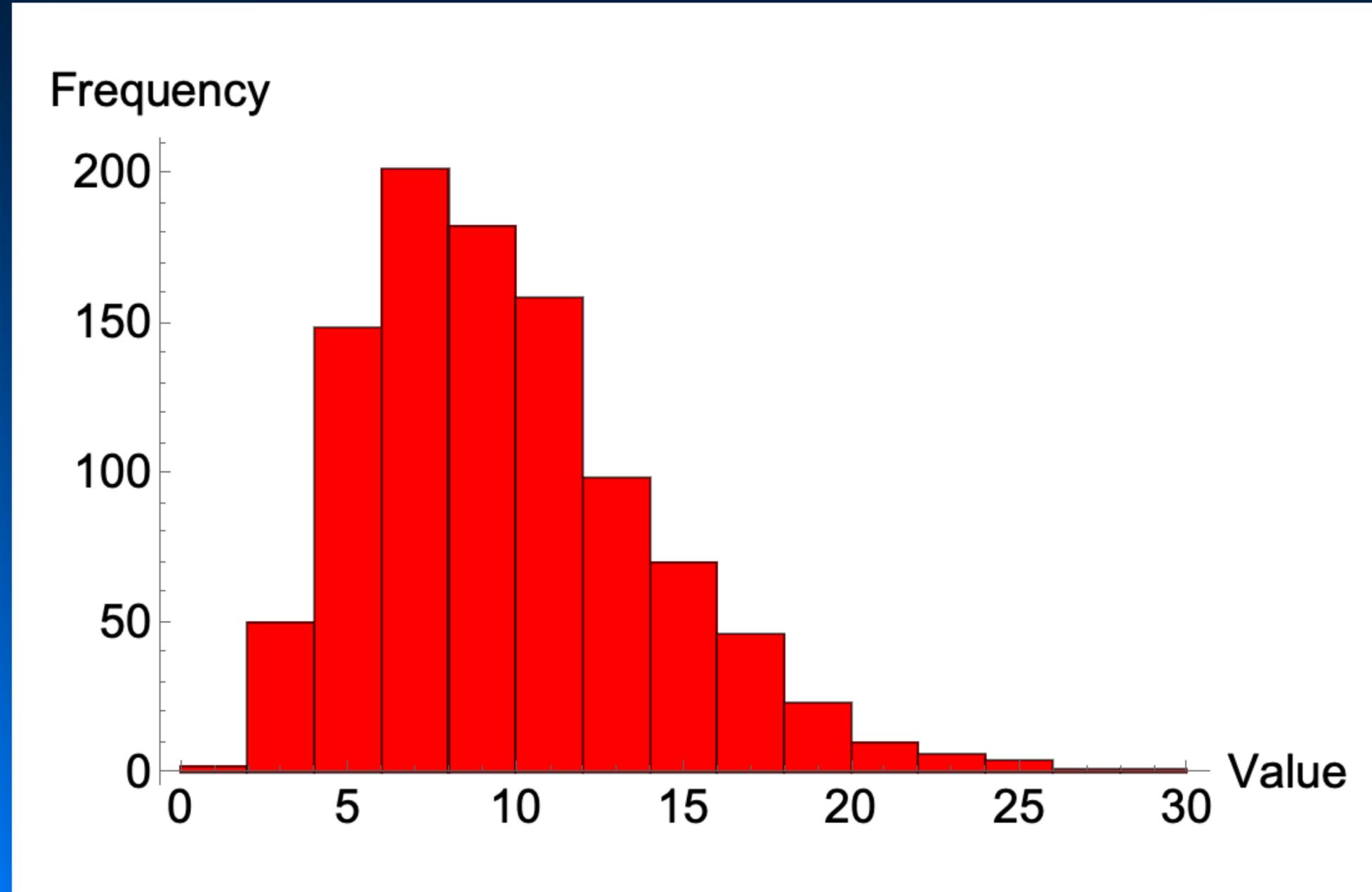
$$x = 32.816$$



# Statistics as Hypothesis Testing

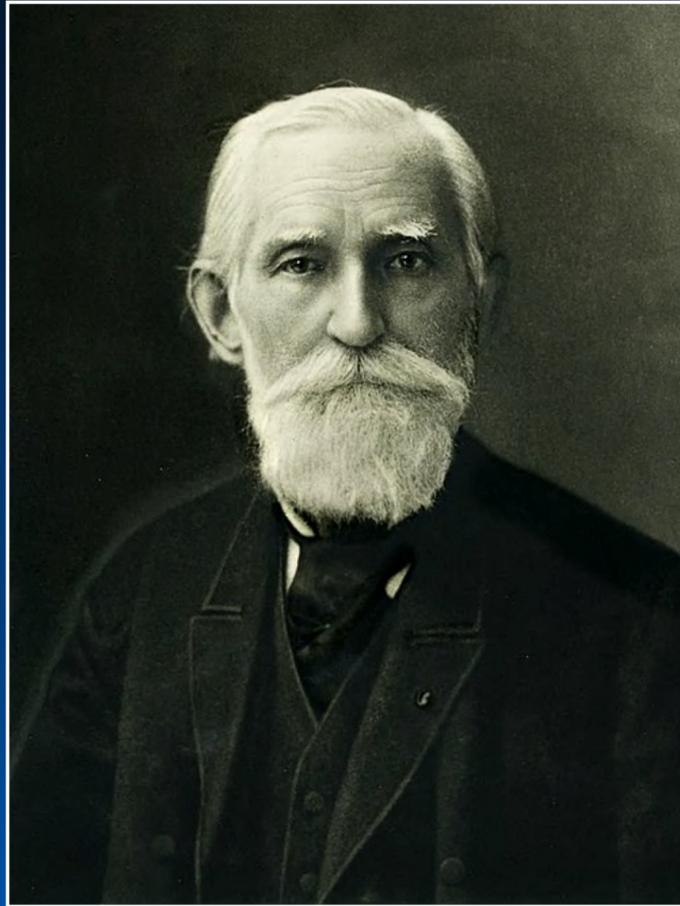
---

What About Non-Normal Data?



# Statistics as Hypothesis Testing

---



*Pafnuty Chebyshev*  
(1821-1894)

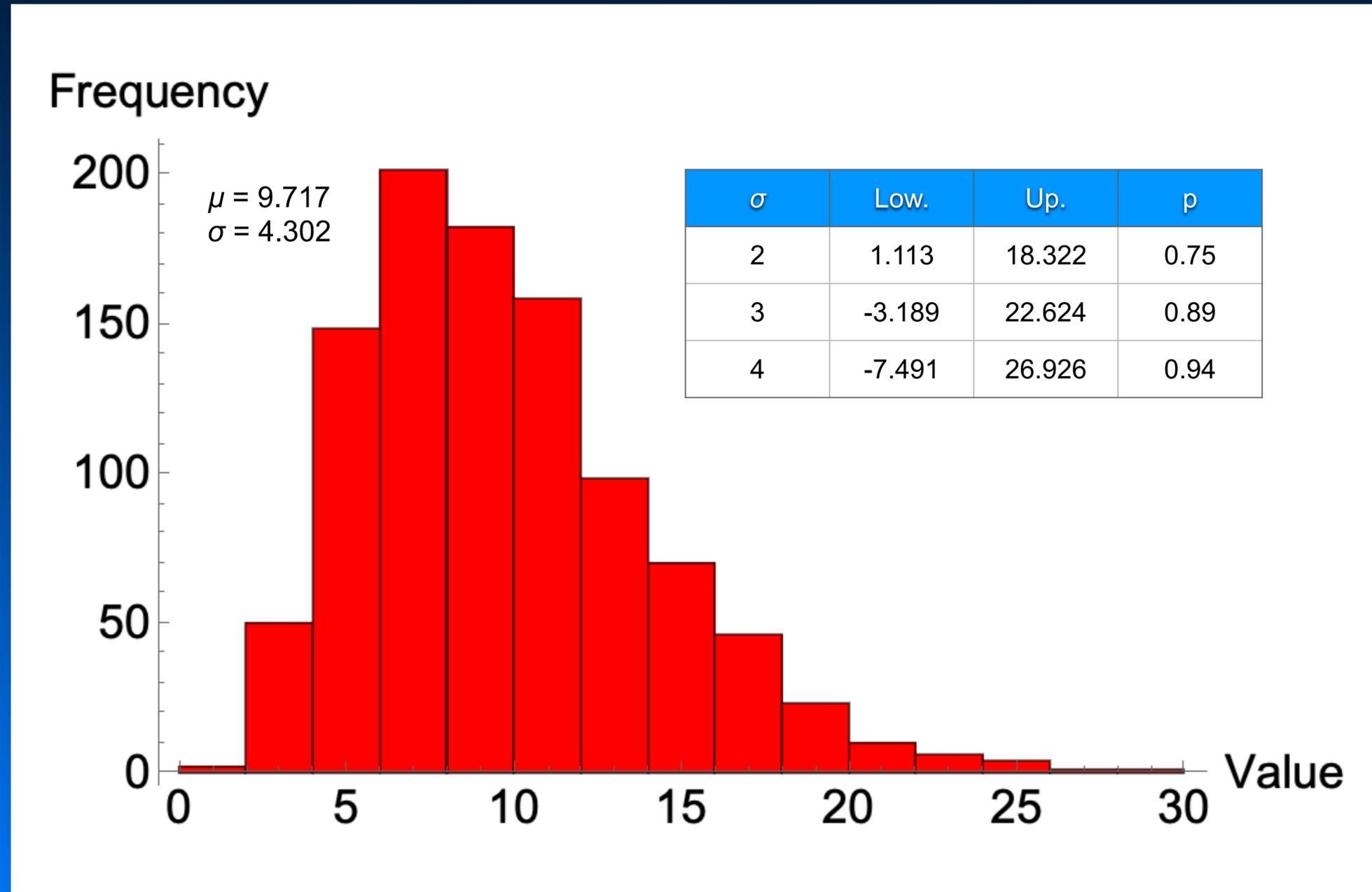
## Chebychev's Theorem

For any distribution regardless of its shape, for intervals about the mean  $> 1$  at least  $1 - 1/\kappa^2$  of the values will lie within  $\kappa$  standard deviations of the mean.

$$P(|x - \mu| < \kappa\sigma) \geq 1 - \frac{1}{\kappa^2}$$

# Statistics as Hypothesis Testing

## What About Non-Normal Data?



# Statistics & Probability for Earth Scientists

## - A Review?



Prof. Norman MacLeod  
School of Earth Sciences & Engineering, Nanjing University

