**Descriptive Statistics for a List of Numbers**

Quiz scores in a (fictitious) class were 10.5, 13.5, 8, 12, 11.3, 9, 9.5, 5, 15, 2.5, 10.5, 7, 11.5, 10, and 10.5. It’s hard to get much of a sense of the class by just staring at the numbers, but you can easily compute the common measures of center and spread by using your TI-83 or TI-84.

**Step 1: Enter the numbers in L1.**

By the way, this note uses list L1, but you can actually use any list you like, as long as you enter the actual list name in the 1-Var Stats command in [Step 2](http://www.tc3.edu/instruct/sbrown/ti83/dstats.htm#List2). (It doesn’t matter whether there are numbers in any other list.)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Enter the data points. | data points entered in L1[STAT] [1] selects the list-edit screen.    Cursor onto the label L1at top of first column, then [CLEAR] [ENTER] erases the list. Enter the x values. |

**Step 2: Compute the statistics.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Select the 1-Var Stats command. | [STAT] [►] [1] pastes the command to the home screen. |
| Specify which statistics list contains the data set. **Show your work**: write down 1-VarStats and the list name. | Assuming you used L1, enter [2nd 1 *makes* L1].    statistics for the data setPress [ENTER] to execute the command. |

The important statistics are

* **sample size** n = 15   
  Always check this first to guard against leaving out numbers or entering numbers twice.
* **mean** x̅ = 9.72   
  (Use symbol μ if this is a population mean.)
* **standard deviation** s = 3.17   
  Since this data set is a sample, use Sx or s for the standard deviation. When the data set is the whole population, use σx or σ for the standard deviation.   
  If rounding is necessary, remember that we **round mean and standard deviation to one decimal place more than the data.**