

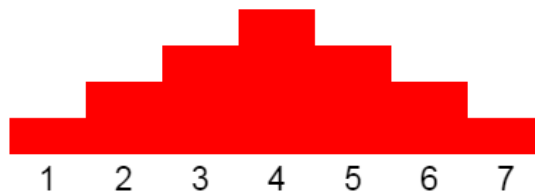
# Looking at Data

Graphic displays are useful for seeing  in data.  in data are commonly described in terms of: , , , and  features. Some common distributions have special descriptive labels, such as , , , etc.

<http://stattrek.com/statistics/charts/data-patterns.aspx>

## Center

Graphically, the  of a distribution is located at the  of the distribution. This is the point in a graphic display where about  of the observations are on  side. In the chart below, the height of each column indicates the  of observations.

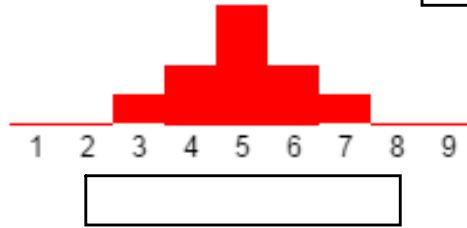


Here, the observations are  over 4.

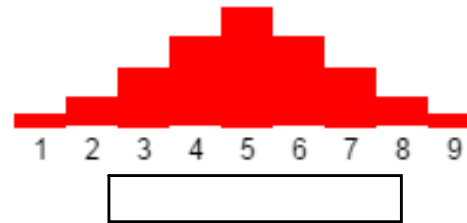
### Spread

The spread of a distribution refers to the  of the data. If the observations cover a  range, the spread is . If the observations are clustered around a  value, the spread is smaller.

In the figure on the top, the data values ranging from 3 to 7



In the figure on the bottom, the bar graph has the values ranging from 1 to 9.

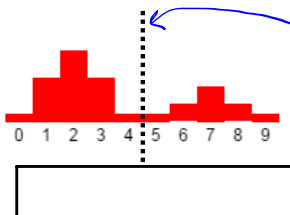


**Conclusion:** The figure on the bottom is  variable, so it has the

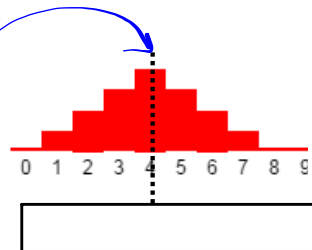
### Shape

The shape of a distribution is described by the following characteristics.

**Symmetry.** When it is graphed, a symmetric distribution can be  at the  so that each  is a  image of the other.



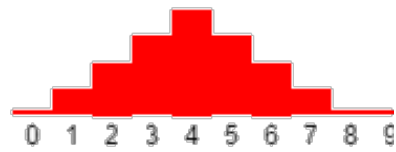
Line of Symmetry



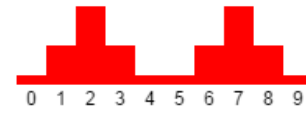
### Number of peaks.

Distributions can have few or many peaks.

Distributions with  clear peak are called



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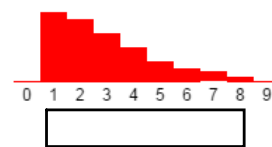
When a symmetric distribution has a single peak at the center, it is referred to as  and can be described as



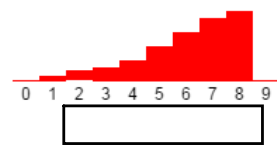
### Skewness.

When they are displayed graphically, some distributions have many more observations on one side of the graph than the other.

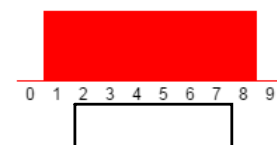
Distributions with fewer observations on the  (toward higher values) are said to be skewed  (The  is on the )



Distributions with fewer observations on the  (toward lower values) are said to be skewed  (The  is on the )



**Uniform.** When the observations in a set of data are  spread across the  of the distribution, the distribution is called a  distribution. A uniform distribution has  clear peaks.



If the  <  <  then the distribution will be skewed to the Left

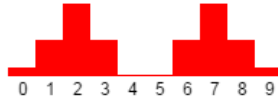
If the  >  >  then the distribution will be skewed to the Right

In a skewed distribution, the  is farther out in the long tail than is the

## Unusual Features

Sometimes, statisticians refer to unusual features in a set of data. The two most common unusual features are  and .

**Gaps.** Gaps refer to areas of a distribution where there are . The figure below has a gap; there are  in the middle of the distribution.



**Outliers.** Sometimes, distributions are characterized by  values that  greatly from the other observations. These extreme values are called . The second figure below illustrates a distribution with an . Except for one lonely observation (the outlier on the extreme ), all of the observations fall between 0 and 4.

