Geography Practical Central Tendency of Data



Central tendency refers to a single value that best represents the "center" or typical value of a dataset. The mean, median, and mode are common measures of central tendency. Mean is the average, median is the middle value, and mode is the most frequent value, providing insights into data distribution.

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Mean:

The mean is the sum of all values in a dataset divided by the number of values. It is sensitive to outliers. Example: In a class of 5 students with ages 18, 19, 20, 21, and 40, the mean age is (18+19+20+21+40)/5 = 23.6.

Median:

The median is the middle value in a sorted dataset.

It is not influenced by extreme values and is thus robust to outliers.

Example: In a set of exam scores: 65, 72, 80, 85, 90, the median score is 80.

Mode:

The mode is the value that appears most frequently in a dataset.

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It can be useful for categorical data. Example: In a dataset of exam scores (A, B, C, C, B, B), the mode is B as it appears three times, indicating it's the most common size.



Each measure of central tendency provides a different insight into the data distribution, and their selection depends on the nature of the dataset and the specific analysis goals.