



Teaching Statistics Seminar

Exploring the relationship between mean understanding and variability

Layla Guyot and Robert Sigley

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Abstract: Previous research has focused on studying understanding of the mean or variation independently of each other. For this study, we are looking at how do different approaches to understanding the mean affect students' ability to pick up the concept of variation. Research has identified six different ways one can interpret the mean, and we want to study (a) how does having a limited understanding (e.g., viewing the mean through an algorithmic approach) affect how one sees variability and (b) if we build a more robust understanding of the mean in a student, does it help them understand variability? This talk will display our preliminary results from a pilot study and solicit feedback to improve data collection.

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