

## **Kirkup Chapter 1 Lecture Notes**

SEF Workshop presentation = Science Fair Data Analysis\_Sohl.pptx

EDA = Exploratory Data Analysis

Aim of an Experiment = Experiments should have a goal. Make note of interesting issues for later. Be careful not to get side-tracked.

Designing an Experiment = Put effort where it makes sense, do preliminary fractional error analysis to determine where you need to improve.

### **Units analysis and equation checking**

Units website

Writing down values: scientific notation and SI prefixes

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metric\\_prefix](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metric_prefix)

Significant Figures

Histograms in Excel

Bin size – reasonable round numbers 15-16 not 14.8-16.1

Bin size – reasonable quantity: Rule of Thumb = # bins =  $N \approx \sqrt{n}$  where  $n$  is the number of data points.

### **Basic Statistics**

range, mean, median, mode, variance, standard deviation

Population, Sample

Cool trick for small sample sizes. Estimate  $s \approx \frac{\text{range}}{\sqrt{n}}$  this works for  $n < 12$  or so.

Random Error vs. Systematic Error

## Metric prefixes

| Prefix                | Symbo | 1000 <sup>m</sup>    | 10 <sup>n</sup>                  | Decimal                   | Short scale   | Long scal     | Since <sup>[n 1]</sup> |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|
| <a href="#">yotta</a> | Y     | 1000 <sup>8</sup>    | <a href="#">10<sup>24</sup></a>  | 1000000000000000000000000 | septillion    | quadrillion   | 1991                   |
| <a href="#">zetta</a> | Z     | 1000 <sup>7</sup>    | <a href="#">10<sup>21</sup></a>  | 100000000000000000000000  | sextillion    | trilliard     | 1991                   |
| <a href="#">exa</a>   | E     | 1000 <sup>6</sup>    | <a href="#">10<sup>18</sup></a>  | 100000000000000000000000  | quintillion   | trillion      | 1975                   |
| <a href="#">peta</a>  | P     | 1000 <sup>5</sup>    | <a href="#">10<sup>15</sup></a>  | 100000000000000000000000  | quadrillion   | billiard      | 1975                   |
| <a href="#">tera</a>  | T     | 1000 <sup>4</sup>    | <a href="#">10<sup>12</sup></a>  | 100000000000000000000000  | trillion      | billion       | 1960                   |
| <a href="#">giga</a>  | G     | 1000 <sup>3</sup>    | <a href="#">10<sup>9</sup></a>   | 100000000000000000000000  | billion       | milliard      | 1960                   |
| <a href="#">mega</a>  | M     | 1000 <sup>2</sup>    | <a href="#">10<sup>6</sup></a>   | 10000                     | million       |               | 1960                   |
| <a href="#">kilo</a>  | k     | 1000 <sup>1</sup>    | <a href="#">10<sup>3</sup></a>   | 10                        | thousand      |               | 1795                   |
| <a href="#">hecto</a> | h     | 1000 <sup>2/3</sup>  | <a href="#">10<sup>2</sup></a>   | 1                         | hundred       |               | 1795                   |
| <a href="#">deca</a>  | da    | 1000 <sup>1/3</sup>  | <a href="#">10<sup>1</sup></a>   |                           | ten           |               | 1795                   |
|                       |       | 1000 <sup>0</sup>    | <a href="#">10<sup>0</sup></a>   | 1                         | one           |               | –                      |
| <a href="#">deci</a>  | d     | 1000 <sup>−1/3</sup> | <a href="#">10<sup>−1</sup></a>  | 0.1                       |               | tenth         | 1795                   |
| <a href="#">centi</a> | c     | 1000 <sup>−2/3</sup> | <a href="#">10<sup>−2</sup></a>  | 0.01                      |               | hundredth     | 1795                   |
| <a href="#">milli</a> | m     | 1000 <sup>−1</sup>   | <a href="#">10<sup>−3</sup></a>  | 0.001                     |               | thousandth    | 1795                   |
| <a href="#">micro</a> | μ     | 1000 <sup>−2</sup>   | <a href="#">10<sup>−6</sup></a>  | 0.000001                  |               | millionth     | 1960                   |
| <a href="#">nano</a>  | n     | 1000 <sup>−3</sup>   | <a href="#">10<sup>−9</sup></a>  | 0.000000001               | billionth     | milliardth    | 1960                   |
| <a href="#">pico</a>  | p     | 1000 <sup>−4</sup>   | <a href="#">10<sup>−12</sup></a> | 0.000000000001            | trillionth    | billionth     | 1960                   |
| <a href="#">femto</a> | f     | 1000 <sup>−5</sup>   | <a href="#">10<sup>−15</sup></a> | 0.000000000000001         | quadrillionth | billiardth    | 1964                   |
| <a href="#">atto</a>  | a     | 1000 <sup>−6</sup>   | <a href="#">10<sup>−18</sup></a> | 0.000000000000000001      | quintillionth | trillionth    | 1964                   |
| <a href="#">zepto</a> | z     | 1000 <sup>−7</sup>   | <a href="#">10<sup>−21</sup></a> | 0.000000000000000000001   | sextillionth  | trilliardth   | 1991                   |
| <a href="#">yocto</a> | y     | 1000 <sup>−8</sup>   | <a href="#">10<sup>−24</sup></a> | 0.00000000000000000000001 | septillionth  | quadrillionth | 1991                   |

1. <sup>^</sup> The metric system was introduced in 1795 with six prefixes. The other dates relate to recognition by a resolution of the [CGPM](#).

## SI Prefixes List

| Prefix                               | Symbol | 10 <sup>n</sup>  | Long/Short Scale       |
|--------------------------------------|--------|------------------|------------------------|
| yotta (gr. <i>okto</i> - eight)      | Y      | 10 <sup>24</sup> | Quadrillion/Septillion |
| zetta (lat. <i>septem</i> - seven)   | Z      | 10 <sup>21</sup> | Trilliard/Sextillion   |
| eksa (gr. <i>ex</i> - six)           | E      | 10 <sup>18</sup> | Trillion/Quintillion   |
| peta (gr. <i>penta</i> - five)       | P      | 10 <sup>15</sup> | Billiard/Quadrillion   |
| tera (gr. <i>teras</i> - monster)    | T      | 10 <sup>12</sup> | Billion/Trillion       |
| giga (gr. <i>gigas</i> - giant)      | G      | 10 <sup>9</sup>  | Milliard/Billion       |
| mega (gr. <i>megas</i> - great)      | M      | 10 <sup>6</sup>  | Million/Million        |
| kilo (gr. <i>khilioi</i> - thousand) | k      | 10 <sup>3</sup>  | Thousand/Thousand      |
| hecto (gr. <i>hekatón</i> - hundred) | h      | 10 <sup>2</sup>  | Hundred/Hundred        |
| deca (gr. <i>deka</i> - ten)         | da     | 10 <sup>1</sup>  | Ten/Ten                |
|                                      |        | 10 <sup>0</sup>  | One/One                |

|                                        |       |            |                            |
|----------------------------------------|-------|------------|----------------------------|
| decy (lat. <i>decimus</i> – tenth)     | d     | $10^{-1}$  | Tenth/Tenth                |
| centy (lac. <i>centum</i> – hundredth) | c     | $10^{-2}$  | Hundredth/Hundredth        |
| milli (lac. <i>mille</i> – thousand)   | m     | $10^{-3}$  | Thousandth/Thousandth      |
| mikro (gr. <i>mikros</i> – small)      | $\mu$ | $10^{-6}$  | Millionth/Millionth        |
| nano (gr. <i>nanos</i> – dwarf)        | n     | $10^{-9}$  | Milliardth/Billionth       |
| pico (it. <i>piccolo</i> – small)      | p     | $10^{-12}$ | Billionth/Trillionth       |
| femto (den. <i>femten</i> – fifteen)   | f     | $10^{-15}$ | Billiardth/Quadrillionth   |
| atto (den. <i>atten</i> – eighteen)    | a     | $10^{-18}$ | Trillionth/Quintillionth   |
| zepto (lat. <i>septem</i> – seven)     | z     | $10^{-21}$ | Trilliardth/Sextillionth   |
| yokto (gr. <i>okto</i> – eight)        | y     | $10^{-24}$ | Quadrillionth/Septillionth |

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From: <http://www.mansfieldschools.com/mhs/physics/Physics%20Humor/Humor.htm>

|                                                                       |                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| $10^1$ cards                                                          | $10^{12}$ firma                       |
| $10^6$ phone                                                          | $10^{15}$ bull                        |
| $10^{-6}$ scope                                                       | $10^{18}$ m                           |
| $10^{-6}$ phone                                                       | $10^6$ bucks                          |
| $10^{-2}$ pede                                                        | $10^3$ what                           |
| $10^{-3}$ pede                                                        | serial $10^3$                         |
| $10^9$ ly (two pronunciations)                                        | $10^6$ lo maniac                      |
| $10^{12}$ bull                                                        | $10^1$ dent                           |
| $10^{-9}$ $10^{-9}$ (said by what person on what old television show) | $10^{-3}$ tary                        |
| $2 \times 10^3$ mockingbird                                           | $10^9$ goat                           |
| $2 \times 10^2$ with it                                               | $10^{18}$ tude                        |
| $10^{-3}$ Vanilli                                                     | $10^{-1}$ and Lucy                    |
| $10^{-1}$ mate                                                        | $10^{-21}$ , Harpo, Chico and Groucho |
| $10^{-12}$ bo St. (Chap Stick personality)                            | $10^{24}$ -see me now                 |
| $10^2$ grade                                                          | $10^{18}$ terrestrial                 |
| $10^{21}$ Marx                                                        | $10^{15}$ , Paul and Mary             |
| $10^{-18}$ boy                                                        | $10^{18}$ -lent                       |
| $10^9$ lo                                                             | $10^{12}$ -tory                       |
|                                                                       | $10^{-12}$ -lo                        |