In Case of Insomnia -
Grading by Standard Deviation

By Storm Kauffman

Have you ever wondered how your final grade is assigned by your instructor? You've probably noted that there is a difference between the average grade in a subject such as math and the average grade in a course such as English. The reason this is so is that math courses generally have a lower standard deviation than English courses. In math, the grades are normally distributed around the mean, while in English, the grades are more spread out.

The average grade in a course is the mean of the grades, which is calculated by adding up all the grades and dividing by the number of students. The standard deviation is a measure of the variability of the grades. It is calculated by finding the square root of the variance, which is the average of the squared differences between the grades and the mean.

To calculate the standard deviation, you need to find the mean of the grades, then find the difference between each grade and the mean, square these differences, find the mean of these squared differences, and finally take the square root of this mean.

For example, let's say you have the following grades: 90, 85, 95, 80, and 90. The mean of these grades is 88. The differences from the mean are -8, -3, 7, -8, and 2, respectively. The squared differences are 64, 9, 49, 64, and 4, respectively. The mean of these squared differences is 100, and the square root of 100 is 10. Therefore, the standard deviation of these grades is 10.

It's important to note that the standard deviation is sensitive to the range of the grades. If there is a large gap between the highest and lowest grades, the standard deviation will be larger. Consequently, if a student's grade falls outside the range of the other students' grades, their instructor may consider giving them a lower grade than they would otherwise have received.

For instance, if the lowest grade in a class is 60, then a grade of 70 would be considered a "C". However, if the lowest grade in a class is 50, then a grade of 60 would be considered a "C". Therefore, it's important to keep in mind the range of the grades when interpreting a student's grade.

In conclusion, the standard deviation is a useful tool for understanding the variability of grades in a course. It's important to keep in mind that the standard deviation is sensitive to the range of the grades. If there is a large gap between the highest and lowest grades, the standard deviation will be larger. Consequently, if a student's grade falls outside the range of the other students' grades, their instructor may consider giving them a lower grade than they would otherwise have received.

The reason for the optimism is the dramatic announcement, during Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's recent five-day trip to Peking, that President Ford will visit China next year. In the wake of Richard Nixon's success in China, our sources reason, Ford would not lay his prestige on the line without some assurance of a substantial breakthrough.

There is Kissinger's reception in Peking. The pair did not gain an audience with party chairman Mao Tse-tung. But he was extended an unprecedented courtesy: Everywhere Kissinger went, even on sightseeing tours, he was escorted by the new Chinese Foreign Minister, Chiao Kuan-hua.

Only one major problem now stands between Washington and Peking. As long as we offer the Nationalist Chinese government of Chiang Kai-shek, Peking will hear nothing about establishing full relations.

There is speculation, however, that in order to even try this problem is in the works. It could eventually be settled in a manner proposed by Sen. Henry Jackson (Wash., Tik. The pair is considering a diplomatic mission to establish full relations.

On Friday, the State Department, according to insiders, refused permission for a prominent American diplomat to visit Taiwan. This was a major setback in the diplomatic negotiations between the two countries.

There is the indication that the Chinese government is considering a diplomatic mission to Taiwan. The United States has been refusing to recognize the government of the Republic of China, and a diplomatic mission to Taiwan would be a significant step towards full relations.

It is worth noting that the United States has been willing to engage in discussions with the Chinese government. However, it has been unwilling to recognize the government of the Republic of China, which it has been calling "Taiwan." This has prevented the United States from establishing full diplomatic relations with China.

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