FOM 11

5.3 Standard Deviation

To describe data numerically, we often use two numbers:

1. Mean: the average

Let $x_1, x_2, x_3, ..., x_n$ represent any set of values.

Mean:
$$\overline{x} = \mu = \frac{\sum x_i}{n}$$

2. Standard Deviation: a measure of the extent to which data cluster around the mean.

Let $x_1, x_2, x_3, ..., x_n$ represent any set of values.

Standard Deviation: $\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x_i - \mu)^2}{n}}$

The smaller the standard deviation, the more consistent the results and the closer the data to the mean.

Example 1: Calculate the standard deviation from the following sets of values:

a. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11



