

WB §9.2 Central Tendency - Choosing an Appropriate measure.

I Consider the data set $\{11, 11, 11, 12, 13, 13, 14, 39\}$

The mean is: $\frac{11+11+11+12+13+13+14+39}{8}$

$$\text{mean} = 15.5$$

The median is: $\frac{12+13}{2}$

$$\text{Median} = 12.5$$

The mode is: 11

$$\text{mode} = 11$$

Q Which of these measures most accurately represents the centre of the data?

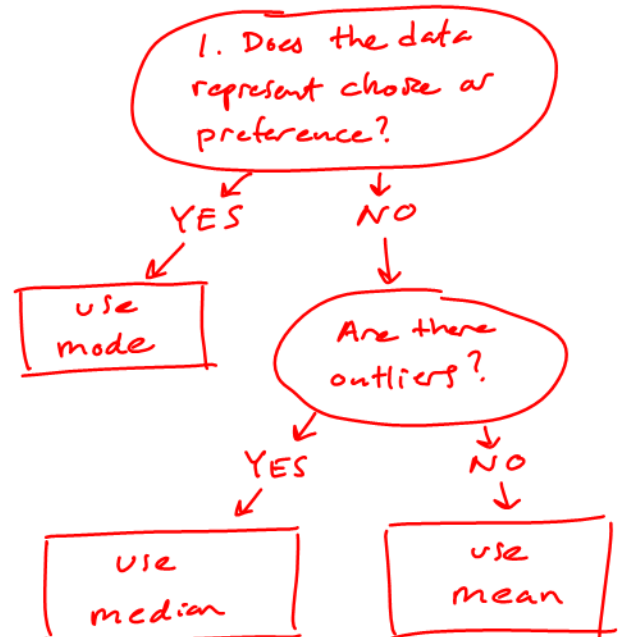
A In this case, the median is the best choice.

II How can we choose the most appropriate measure?

SOME GUIDELINES

1. If the data represents personal choice or preference, use the MODE
2. If the numbers are relatively close together, use MEAN or MEDIAN
3. If there are outliers, use the MEDIAN

CHOOSING A MEASURE



* An outlier is a number that is much larger or much smaller than the rest.