

Range Rule of Thumb

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- **usual values** in a data set are those that are “typical” and not too extreme
 - rough estimates of the minimum and maximum “usual” sample values can be computed using the “range rule of thumb”

Properties of the Standard Deviation

- For many data sets, a value is unusual if it differs from the mean by more than two standard deviations
- Compare standard deviations of two different data sets only if the they use the same scale and units, and they have means that are approximately the same

Comparing Variation in Different Samples

It's a good practice to compare two sample standard deviations with s only when the sample means are approximately the same.

In general, it is better to use the **coefficient of variation** when comparing any two standard deviations.