

INTERVAL DATA

DEFINITION

What is interval data?

Interval data refers not only to classification and ordering the measurements, but it also specifies that the distances between each value on the scale are equal.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Interval scales not only show you the order and the direction, but also the exact differences between the values.
- The distances between each value on the interval scale are meaningful and equal.
- There is no true zero point or fixed beginning.
- You cannot calculate Ratios.

INTERVAL DATA EXAMPLES

- Time of each day in the meaning of a 12-hour clock.
- Temperature, in degrees Fahrenheit or Celsius (but not Kelvin).
- IQ test (intelligence scale).
- Test scores such as the SAT and ACT test scores.
- Age is also a variable that is measurable on an interval scale, like 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 years and etc.
- Measuring an income as a range, like \$0-\$999; \$1000-\$1999; \$2000-\$2900, and etc.
- Dates (1015, 1442, 1726, etc.)
- Voltage e.g. 110 and 120 volts.

INTERVAL AND RATIO DATA

As the interval scales, Ratio scales show us the order and the exact value between the units.

However, in contrast with interval scales, Ratio ones have an absolute zero that allows us to multiply and to calculate ratios.

Examples of ratio data:

- Weight
- The Kelvin scale: 50 K is twice as hot as 25 K.
- Income earned in a month.
- A number of children.