Describing Shapes of Distributions - Reference Handout

Vocabulary:

Variability: How spread out data are from the center

Maximum Value: Highest value

Minimum Value: Lowest value

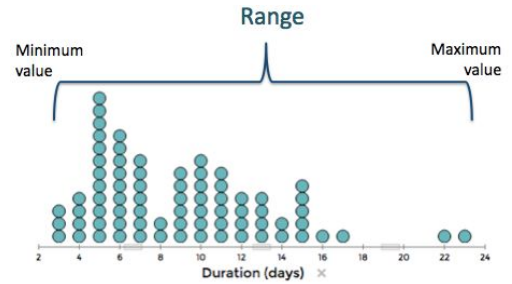**Range**: The distance between the maximum and minimum values

Distribution: Visualization of how a group of data points is spread along a number line

Skewed: A distribution with data points shifted to one side (not symmetrical)

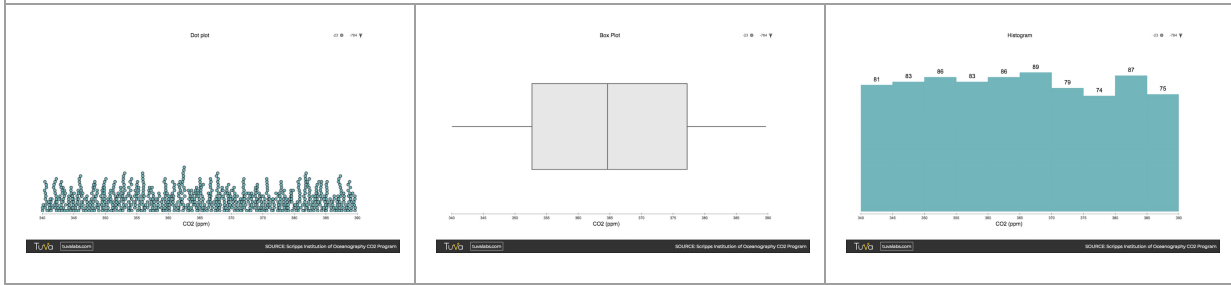**Bimodal**: A distribution that has two distinct groups, or clusters, of points

Bell-shaped: A symmetrical distribution with one main clump in the middle (also called 'Normal')

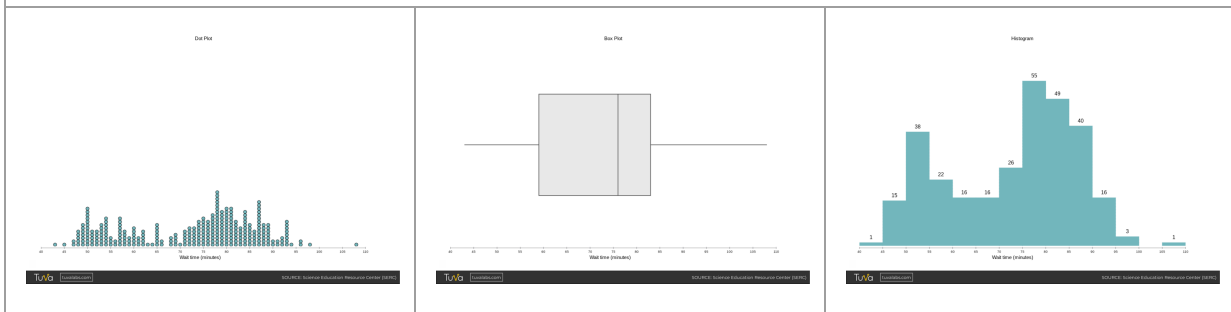**Tail**: The area of points in a distribution that tapers off to one or both sides

Dot Plot	Box Plot	Histogram
Symmetrical		
Bell-shaped: A symmetrical distribution with one main clump in the middle (also called 'Normal')		
Bimodal: A distribution that has two distinct groups, or clusters, of points		

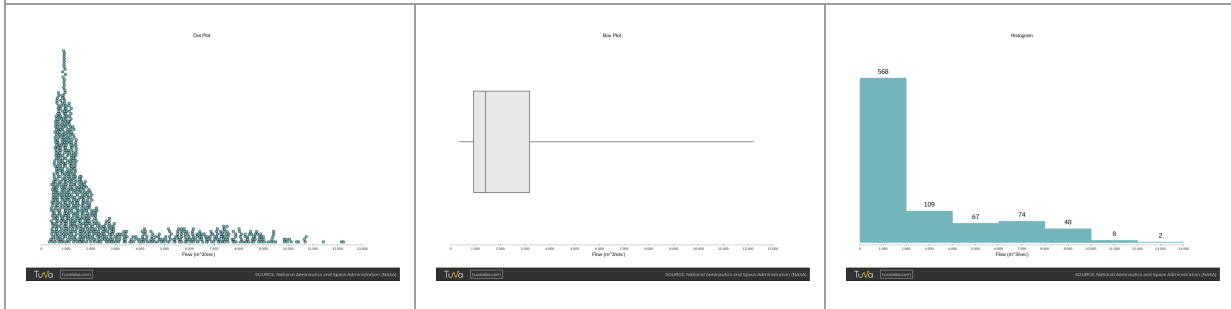| **Uniform:** The data are spread out somewhat evenly along the axis with no big clumps		

Asymmetrical
Bimodal: A distribution that has two distinct groups, or clusters, of points

Skewed Right   (The tail points to the right)
Skewed: A distribution that is not symmetrical

Skewed Left   (The tail points to the left)
Skewed: A distribution that is not symmetrical

Attribution: based on a version created by T. Barboza, Maine RSU 19