

# Probability and Statistics

## 5 – Statistics

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# Confidence Intervals

## Notation (5.13)

Let  $\bar{x}$  denote the value of the sample mean of a random sample. Given an  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  and intervals  $I = I(\bar{x})$  for all such values  $\bar{x}$ , such that

$$\Pr(\mu \in I) = 1 - \alpha$$

then the intervals are called *confidence intervals* of *confidence level*  $1 - \alpha$  for  $\mu$ .

If  $I$  is a (symmetric) *two-sided confidence interval* with respect to  $\bar{x}$ , i.e.

$$I = [\bar{x} - \delta, \bar{x} + \delta]$$

for some  $\delta \in \mathbb{R}^+$ , this may be stated as:

$$\mu = \bar{x} \pm \delta \quad \text{with a confidence of } 100(1 - \alpha)\%$$

# $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$ : Confidence Intervals for $\mu$ , if $\sigma^2$ is known

## (5.14)(i) Two-sided confidence intervals

$$1 - \alpha = \Pr(\mu \in [\bar{X} - \delta, \bar{X} + \delta])$$

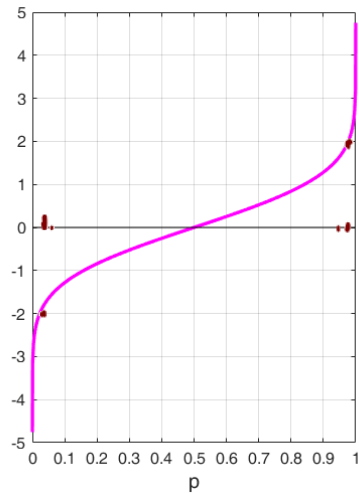
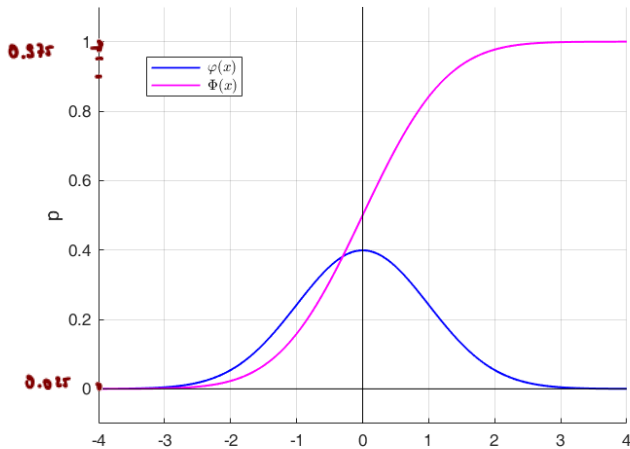
$$\Leftrightarrow 1 - \alpha = \Pr\left(\underbrace{|\bar{X} - \mu|}_{\sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)} \leq \underbrace{\frac{\delta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}}_{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}\right) = 2\Phi\left(\frac{\delta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}\right) - 1 \quad (\text{cf. with 5.8})$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2} = \Phi\left(\frac{\delta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}\right) \Leftrightarrow \delta = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot \Phi^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)$$

Therefore:  $\mu = \bar{X} \pm \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot \Phi^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)$  with confidence level  $1 - \alpha$

$$\mu = \bar{X} \pm \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot \underbrace{\Phi^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}_{\approx 1.96}$$

with confidence level  $1 - \alpha = \underline{0.95}$



## $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$ : Confidence Intervals for $\mu$ , if $\sigma^2$ is known

### (5.14)(ii) One-sided upper confidence intervals

$$1 - \alpha = \Pr(\mu \in [\bar{X} - \delta, \infty]) = \Pr(\mu \geq \bar{X} - \delta)$$

$$\iff 1 - \alpha = \Pr(\bar{X} - \mu \leq \delta) = \Pr\left(\frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \leq \frac{\delta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}\right) = \Phi\left(\frac{\delta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}\right)$$

$$\iff \delta = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot \Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha)$$

Therefore:  $\mu \geq \bar{X} - \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot \Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha)$  with confidence level  $1 - \alpha$

## $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$ : Confidence Intervals for $\mu$ , if $\sigma^2$ is known

### (5.14)(iii) One-sided lower confidence intervals

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - \alpha &= \Pr(\mu \in [-\infty, \bar{X} + \delta]) = \Pr(\mu \leq \bar{X} + \delta) \\ \iff 1 - \alpha &= \Pr(-\delta \leq \bar{X} - \mu) = \Pr\left(-\frac{\delta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \leq \frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}\right) \\ &= 1 - \Phi\left(-\frac{\delta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}\right) = \Phi\left(\frac{\delta}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}\right) \\ \iff \delta &= \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot \Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore:  $\mu \leq \bar{X} + \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot \Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha)$  with confidence level  $1 - \alpha$

## $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$ : Confidence Intervals for $\mu$ , if $\sigma^2$ is known

Confidence intervals for  $\mu$  with a confidence level of  $1 - \alpha$  are:

$$\mu = \bar{X} \pm \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot \Phi^{-1} \left( 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2} \right)$$

$$\mu \geq \bar{X} - \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot \Phi^{-1} (1 - \alpha)$$

$$\mu \leq \bar{X} + \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot \Phi^{-1} (1 - \alpha)$$

## $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$ : Confidence Intervals for $\mu$ , if $\sigma^2$ is unknown

**(5.16)** Using the sample mean  $\bar{X}$  to estimate  $\mu$  and the sample variance  $S^2$  to estimate  $\sigma^2$ , confidence intervals for  $\mu$  can be determined by replacing the standard normal distribution used in (5.14) with the  $t$  distribution with  $n - 1$  degrees of freedom for the random variable:

$$\frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{S/\sqrt{n}} \stackrel{(5.12)}{\sim} t_{n-1}$$



# $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$ : Confidence Intervals for $\mu$ , if $\sigma^2$ is unknown

## Two-sided confidence intervals

$$1 - \alpha = \Pr(\mu \in [\bar{X} - \delta, \bar{X} + \delta]) \quad \text{fix } \alpha, \delta = ?$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 1 - \alpha = \Pr\left(\left|\frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{S/\sqrt{n}}\right| \leq \frac{\delta}{S/\sqrt{n}}\right) = 2 F_{t_{n-1}}\left(\frac{\delta}{S/\sqrt{n}}\right) - 1$$

$F_{t_{n-1}}(-\frac{\delta}{S/\sqrt{n}})$   
"  $1 - F_{t_{n-1}}(\frac{\delta}{S/\sqrt{n}})$   
hence

$$\Leftrightarrow 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2} = F_{t_{n-1}}\left(\frac{\delta}{S/\sqrt{n}}\right) \Leftrightarrow \delta = \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot F_{t_{n-1}}^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)$$

Therefore:  $\mu = \bar{X} \pm \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot F_{t_{n-1}}^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)$  with confidence level  $1 - \alpha$

## $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$ : Confidence Intervals for $\mu$ , if $\sigma^2$ is unknown

**(5.16)** Using the sample mean  $\bar{X}$  to estimate  $\mu$  and the sample variance  $S^2$  to estimate  $\sigma^2$ , confidence intervals for  $\mu$  can be determined by replacing the standard normal distribution used in (5.14) with the  $t$  distribution with  $n - 1$  degrees of freedom for the random variable:

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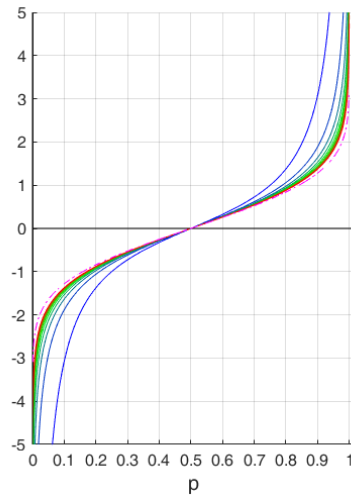
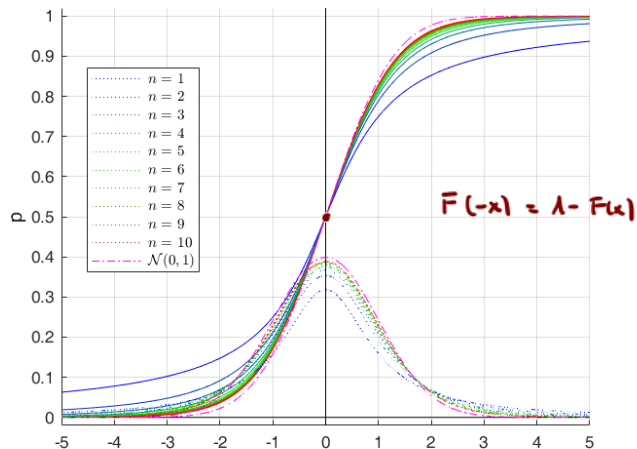
Confidence intervals for  $\mu$  with a confidence level of  $1 - \alpha$  are:

$$\mu = \bar{X} \pm \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot F_{t_{n-1}}^{-1} \left( 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2} \right)$$

$$\mu \geq \bar{X} - \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot F_{t_{n-1}}^{-1} (1 - \alpha)$$

$$\mu \leq \bar{X} + \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \cdot F_{t_{n-1}}^{-1} (1 - \alpha)$$

# $t_n$ distributions for $n = 1, 2, \dots, 10$

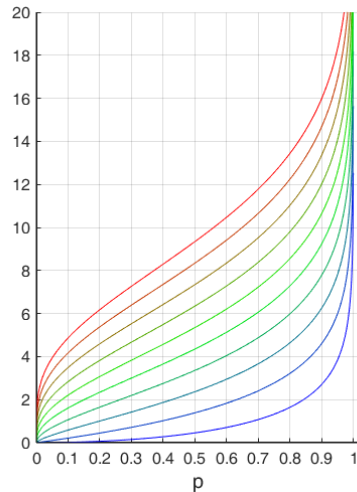
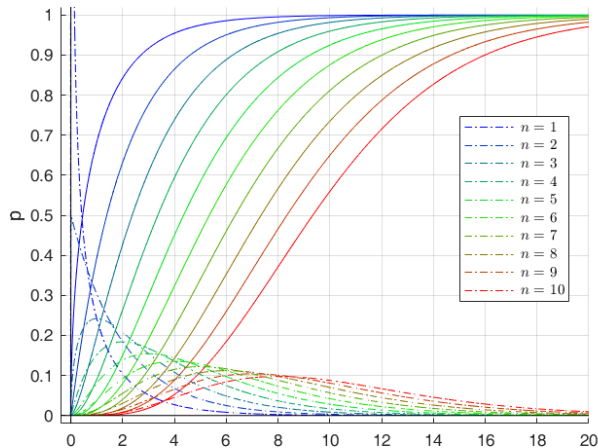


## Confidence Intervals for $\sigma^2$

**(5.18)** Using the sample variance  $S^2$  to estimate  $\sigma^2$ , confidence intervals for  $\sigma^2$  can be determined from the random variable:

$$Y_{n-1} := \frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} S^2 \stackrel{(5.11)}{\sim} \chi_{n-1}^2$$

# Pdf's and cdf's of $\chi_n^2 = \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right)$ distributions for $n = 1, 2, \dots, 10$



# Confidence Intervals for $\sigma^2$

## (5.18)(i) Two-sided confidence intervals

Given  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , put:

$$b_1 := \underbrace{F_{Y_{n-1}}^{-1}}_{\sim \chi^2_{n-1}}\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad b_2 := F_{Y_{n-1}}^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)$$

Then:

$$\Pr\left(\frac{n-1}{b_2} S^2 \leq \sigma^2 \leq \frac{n-1}{b_1} S^2\right) = \Pr\left(b_1 \leq \frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} S^2 \leq b_2\right) \stackrel{\substack{\sim \chi^2_{n-1} \\ (1-\frac{\alpha}{2}) - \frac{\alpha}{2}}}{=} 1 - \alpha$$

Therefore:  $\sigma^2 \in \left[\frac{n-1}{b_2} S^2, \frac{n-1}{b_1} S^2\right]$  with confidence level  $1 - \alpha$

## Confidence Intervals for $\sigma^2$

### (5.18)(ii) One-sided lower confidence intervals

Given  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , put:

$$b := F_{Y_{n-1}}^{-1}(\alpha)$$

Then:

$$\Pr\left(\sigma^2 \leq \frac{n-1}{b} S^2\right) = \Pr\left(\frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} S^2 \geq b\right) = 1 - \alpha$$

Therefore:  $\sigma^2 \leq \frac{n-1}{b} S^2$  with confidence level  $1 - \alpha$

## Confidence Intervals for $\sigma^2$

### (5.18)(iii) One-sided upper confidence intervals

Given  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , put:

$$b := F_{Y_{n-1}}^{-1}(1 - \alpha)$$

Then:

$$\Pr\left(\sigma^2 \geq \frac{n-1}{b} S^2\right) = \Pr\left(\frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} S^2 \leq b\right) = 1 - \alpha$$

Therefore:  $\sigma^2 \geq \frac{n-1}{b} S^2$  with confidence level  $1 - \alpha$



$$X_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$$

### Remark (5.19)

Let  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  be a random sample with  $X_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ . Then  $n\bar{X} \sim \text{binomial}(n, p)$  and for sufficiently large integers  $n$ , we get:

$$n \cdot \bar{X} = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n \sim \text{binomial}(n, p)$$

$$n^2 \cdot \text{Var}(\bar{X}) = \text{Var}(n \cdot \bar{X}) = p(1-p) \cdot n$$

$$\text{Var}(\bar{X}) = \frac{p(1-p)}{n}$$

$$\frac{\bar{X} - p}{\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}} \approx \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

# $X_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ : Approximate Confidence Intervals for $p$

## (5.20)(i) Two-sided confidence intervals

find  $\alpha$   
find  $\delta$

$$1 - \alpha = \Pr(p \in [\bar{X} - \delta, \bar{X} + \delta]) = \Pr(|\bar{X} - p| \leq \delta)$$

$$= \Pr(-\delta \leq \bar{X} - p \leq \delta)$$

$$= \Pr\left(-\frac{\delta}{\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}} \leq \frac{\bar{X} - p}{\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}} \leq \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}}\right)$$

$$\approx 2 \cdot \Phi\left(\frac{\delta}{\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}}\right) - 1$$

$$p \in (0, 1)$$

$$p(1-p) \leq \frac{1}{4} \quad \text{f.e. } p \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\sqrt{p(1-p)} \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \delta \approx \frac{\sqrt{p(1-p)} \cdot \Phi^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \frac{\Phi^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}{2\sqrt{n}}$$

## $X_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ : Approximate Confidence Intervals for $p$

(5.20)(ii) One-sided lower confidence intervals

$$1 - \alpha = \Pr\left(p \in (-\infty, \bar{X} + \delta]\right) = \Pr\left(\bar{X} - p \geq -\delta\right)$$

$$= \Pr\left(\frac{\bar{X} - p}{\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}} \geq -\frac{\delta}{\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}}\right)$$

$$\approx \Phi\left(\frac{\delta}{\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}}\right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \delta \approx \frac{\sqrt{p(1-p)} \cdot \Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha)}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \frac{\Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha)}{2\sqrt{n}}$$

## $X_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ : Approximate Confidence Intervals for $p$

### (5.20)(iii) One-sided upper confidence intervals

$$\begin{aligned}1 - \alpha &= \Pr\left(p \in [\bar{X} - \delta, \infty)\right) = \Pr\left(\bar{X} - p \leq \delta\right) \\&= \Pr\left(\frac{\bar{X} - p}{\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}} \leq \frac{\delta}{\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}}\right) \\&\approx \Phi\left(\frac{\delta}{\sqrt{p(1-p)/n}}\right)\end{aligned}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \quad \delta \approx \frac{\sqrt{p(1-p)} \cdot \Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha)}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \frac{\Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha)}{2\sqrt{n}}$$

## $X_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ : Approximate Confidence Intervals for $p$

### (5.21) Approximation of $n$ for confidence intervals of given width

Given  $\alpha$ ,  $\delta$  and an estimation  $\bar{x} \approx p$  (e.g. from a small preliminary sample), an estimation for the sample size  $n$ , such that a two-sided confidence interval for  $p$  of confidence level  $1 - \alpha$  has width  $2\delta$ , is given by:

$$n \approx \frac{p(1-p) \cdot \left(\Phi^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)\right)^2}{\delta^2} \approx \frac{\bar{x}(1-\bar{x}) \cdot \left(\Phi^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)\right)^2}{\delta^2}$$

As  $p(1-p) \leq \frac{1}{4}$  for all  $p \in \mathbb{R}$ , the estimation

$$n \gtrsim \frac{\left(\Phi^{-1}\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)\right)^2}{4\delta^2}$$

holds true for all values of  $p$ .