

Confidence Intervals, Trade offs in CI, Hypothesis test

Introduction to inference

Statistical inference

Want to draw conclusions based on sample data

ie- say something about an entire population based on information in a sample.

Conclusions are subject to sampling error

We want to quantify the margin of error we are likely to encounter.

Confidence is just the probability that your estimate is correct.

Confidence Interval

Best guess +/- error of estimation

We take a random sample from the population and proceed on the basis of the information we obtain from the sample.

The definition of the CI (Confidence Interval) for μ

$$P(LL \leq \mu \leq UL) = C$$

C is a number you choose, often it is 0.95 (This is the level of confidence)

\bar{x} is μ because that is our best middle.

So we just need to find

$$LL = \bar{x} - M \text{ (M is a margin)}$$

$$UL = \bar{x} + M \text{ (M is a margin)}$$

$$P(\bar{x} - M \leq \mu \leq \bar{x} + M) = C$$

Trade offs in Confidence Intervals

If we increase the confidence we reduce the accuracy.

The extremes are not useful, it's better to be somewhere in the middle.

Confidence interval

goal is to estimate some parameter of a population.

Test of significance

Goal is to assess the evidence provided by the data in favor of some claim about the population.