

7.1

Confidence intervals for means

g.f. Z is a standard normal distribution $N(0,1)$

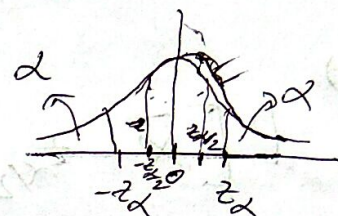
$$P(Z \geq z_\alpha) = \alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow P(Z \leq -z_\alpha) = \alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow P(Z \leq z_\alpha) = 1 - \alpha \quad \text{--- } \textcircled{*}$$

$$\Rightarrow P(|Z| \leq z_{\alpha/2}) = 1 - \alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow P(-z_{\alpha/2} \leq Z \leq z_{\alpha/2}) = 1 - \alpha$$



100(1- α)-th
percentile from
left.

100 α -th percentile
from right

g.f. X is $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$, the distribution of the sample mean $\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ is, $N(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n})$.

see \rightarrow (Corollary 5.5-1) \rightarrow Page \rightarrow 193

$$\therefore \textcircled{1} \Rightarrow P\left(-z_{\alpha/2} \leq \frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}} \leq z_{\alpha/2}\right) = 1 - \alpha \quad \text{--- } \textcircled{2}$$

For example, if $1 - \alpha = 0.95 \Rightarrow \alpha = 0.05 \Rightarrow \frac{\alpha}{2} = 0.025$,
 $\therefore z_{\alpha/2} = z_{0.025} = 1.96$ (From ~~from~~ $N(0,1)$ Table)

Now,
$$-z_{\alpha/2} \leq \frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}} \leq z_{\alpha/2} \rightarrow (\text{derivation} \rightarrow \text{Page} \rightarrow 301.)$$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{X} - z_{\alpha/2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right) \leq \mu \leq \bar{X} + z_{\alpha/2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right).$$

$$\therefore \textcircled{2} \Rightarrow P \left[\bar{X} - z_{\alpha/2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right) \leq \mu \leq \bar{X} + z_{\alpha/2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right) \right] = 1 - \alpha$$

so, the probability of the random interval

$$\left[\bar{X} - z_{\alpha/2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right), \bar{X} + z_{\alpha/2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right) \right]$$

includes the unknown mean μ is $1 - \alpha$.

If the sample mean computed to \bar{n} , the random

interval $\left[\bar{n} - z_{\alpha/2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right), \bar{n} + z_{\alpha/2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right) \right]$ which

covers μ (or, briefly $\bar{n} \pm z_{\alpha/2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right)$) is

called a $100(1 - \alpha)\%$ "confidence interval" of μ .

For example, $\bar{n} \pm 1.96 \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right)$ is a 95% confidence interval for μ . The number $100(1 - \alpha)\% = 1 - \alpha$ is called the "confidence coefficient".

For example: $1 - \alpha = 0.95$ is the confidence coefficient.

A shorter confidence interval gives a more precise estimate of μ . If n increases, $z_{\alpha/2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right)$ decreases, then we get a shorter confidence interval with the same "confidence coefficient" $1-\alpha$.

For a fixed sample size n , the length of the confidence interval is shortened if $(1-\alpha)$ decreases.

Example:- 7.1-1:-

variance,
here, $\sigma^2 = 1296 \Rightarrow \sigma = 36$

sample size, $n = 27$, $\bar{x} = 1478$

sample mean, $\bar{x} = 1478$ hours.

and, $1-\alpha = 95\% = 0.95$

$\Rightarrow \alpha = 1 - 0.95 = 0.05$

$\Rightarrow \frac{\alpha}{2} = 0.025$

$\therefore z_{\alpha/2} = z_{0.025} = 1.96$

NOW, the 95% confidence interval for μ is,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\bar{x} - z_{\alpha/2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right), \bar{x} + z_{\alpha/2} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right) \right] \\ &= \left[1478 - 1.96 \left(\frac{36}{\sqrt{27}} \right), 1478 + 1.96 \left(\frac{36}{\sqrt{27}} \right) \right] \\ &= [1464.42, 1491.58] \end{aligned}$$

Ans

Example: 7.1-2 :- Here, $\sigma^2 = 16 \Rightarrow \sigma = 4$
 $n = 5$

and, $1 - \alpha = 90\% = 0.9$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = 0.1 \Rightarrow \frac{\alpha}{2} = 0.05$$

$$\therefore z_{\alpha/2} = z_{0.05} = 1.645$$

\therefore the 90% confidence interval for unknown mean μ ,
is,

$$\left[\bar{x} - 1.645 \left(\frac{4}{\sqrt{5}} \right), \bar{x} + 1.645 \left(\frac{4}{\sqrt{5}} \right) \right]$$

For a particular sample, this interval either does or, does not contain the mean μ .

However, if many such intervals are calculated, about 90% of them should contain μ .

OR,

If W is a random variable that counts the number of 90% confidence intervals containing μ , then the distribution of W is $b(\mu, 0.9)$.

The random interval is also called an approximate $100(1-\alpha)\%$ confidence interval for μ .
see \rightarrow page (303 & 304).

Example: 2.1-3 :- Here, $\alpha = 96$, $n = 576$, $\bar{x} = 133$
 and $1 - \alpha = 90\% = 0.9 \Rightarrow \alpha = 0.1 \Rightarrow \alpha/2 = 0.05$
 $\therefore z_{\alpha/2} = z_{0.05} = 1.645$
 \therefore The approximate 90% confidence interval for μ is,

$$\left[133 - 1.645 \times \left(\frac{96}{\sqrt{576}} \right), 133 + 1.645 \left(\frac{96}{\sqrt{576}} \right) \right]$$

$$= [126.42, 139.58]$$

Example: 2.1-4 :- From data, we have to calculate,
 mean, $\bar{x} = 19.07$ & variance, $s^2 = 10.6 \Rightarrow s = \sqrt{10.6}$,
 sample size, $n = 32$ & $1 - \alpha = 95\%$
 $\Rightarrow z_{\alpha/2} = 1.96$
 \therefore The approximate 95% confidence interval for μ is,

$$\left[19.07 - 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{10.6}{32}}, 19.07 + 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{10.6}{32}} \right]$$

$$= [17.94, 20.20]$$

If the random sample arises from a normal distribution, $T = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{s/\sqrt{n}}$ has a t -distribution with $n-1$ degrees of freedom (Equation 5.5-2), where, s^2 is the usual unbiased estimator of σ^2 .

If X is a $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ and $\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$,

$$\textcircled{*} \Rightarrow P\left(\frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \leq z_\alpha\right) = 1 - \alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow P\left[\bar{X} - z_\alpha\left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\right) \leq \mu\right] = 1 - \alpha$$

If $\bar{X} = \bar{x}$, $\left[\bar{x} - z_\alpha\left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\right), \infty\right)$ is a $100(1-\alpha)\%$ one-sided confidence interval for μ .

That is, with the confidence coefficient $1-\alpha$, $\bar{x} - z_\alpha\left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\right)$ is a lower bound for μ .

Similarly, $(-\infty, \bar{x} + z_\alpha\left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\right))$ is a one-sided confidence interval for μ and $\bar{x} + z_\alpha\left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\right)$ provides an upper bound for μ with confidence coefficient $1-\alpha$.

Exercise \rightarrow 7-1-1; 1-10