

Can you guess what we  
are gonna study???

Unit 7 – Confidence Interval Estimates  
Your Confident Professor Colton



# Unit 7 - Outline

## Unit 7 – Confidence Interval Estimates

### Sampling Distribution and CLT of $\hat{p}$ Review

#### Intro

- Populations and Samples

#### Proportions

- Motivating Example
- How to build a CI
- Margin of Error
- Formula
- Interpreting CI
- Practice

# Central Limit Theorem for $\hat{p}$

## REVIEW!

### Central Limit Theorem

- Let  $\hat{p}$  be the sample proportion of successes in a random sample of size  $n$  from a population with true proportion of success  $p$ .
- If we take a large enough sample, then
  - The mean of  $\hat{p}$  is equal to the population proportion,  $p$

$$\mu_{\hat{p}} = p$$

( $\mu_{\hat{p}}$  in words = mean (center) of distribution of sample proportions)

( $\hat{p}$  = “p-hat” = sample proportion)

- The standard deviation of  $\hat{p}$  is equal to

$$\sigma_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}$$

( $\sigma_{\hat{p}}$  in words = Standard deviation of sample proportions)

- And the distribution of  $\hat{p}$  is approximately Normal!



Ex) Results from 10,000 samples of 20 coin tosses  
→  $p = 0.5$

\*\* Might see  $\sigma_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{pq}{n}}$ , where  $q = 1 - p$   
(it represents the probability of failure)

### Summary

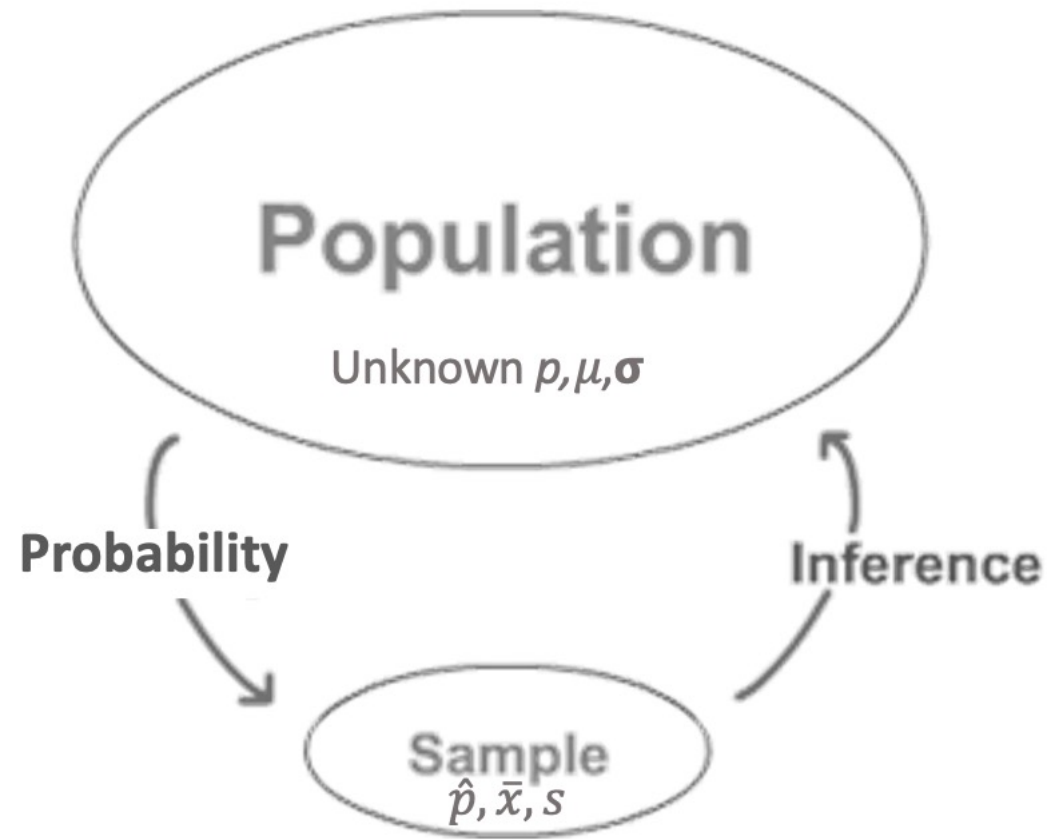
**$\hat{p}$  is Normal with mean  $\mu_{\hat{p}} = p$  and SD  $\sigma_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}$**

- (Referring to the sampling distribution, selecting a group of people and summarizing)

\*\* Again, technically there are conditions for this (same idea, but different because proportions now). But we will ignore them 😊

$$\hat{p} \sim \text{Normal} \left( \text{mean} = p, \text{SD} = \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}} \right)$$

# Motivation – Populations and Samples



Last time taught these slides, I lost r

Future teaching strategy:  
I think slides are quality and there s

Just don't over explain, they know v

The more I explain before they have

# Motivating Example

**Setup:** A random sample of 100 fourth-graders were surveyed to determine if they a

- The sample proportion for the 100 students was  $\hat{p} = 0.45$
- Administrators want to estimate what the proportion would be if the entire population of fourth graders in the district had been surveyed.

**Building up:**

- The best estimate for the unknown population proportion is the sample proportion  $\hat{p} = 0.45$ , which is a point estimate
- Let's say we think that  $\hat{p}$  could be off by 5% from the unknown population proportion, we would estimate  $p$  with the interval  $0.45 - 0.05 < p < 0.45 + 0.05 \rightarrow 0.45 \pm 0.05$

**And we're there:**

- The interval (0.4, 0.5) is called a confidence interval and stats peeps construct confidence intervals to estimate unknown population parameters!
  - *Construct confidence intervals means finding the lower bound and upper bound*
- The plus-or-minus number is called the margin of error!

# Motivation – Why Confidence Intervals

## Estimating Parameters

### Point Estimates

- Using a statistic to estimate a parameter (for means we use  $\hat{p}$  or  $\bar{x}$  to estimate  $p$  or  $\mu$ , respectively)
- It is a single number that is our best guess (estimate).
- Very unlikely that statistics equal the true parameter values they are estimating (remember each sample is different; sampling variability).
- Therefore, in order for the estimate to be useful, we must describe how close it is likely to be.

### Interval Estimates

- Give a range for what we think the population parameter is.
- Takes into account sampling variability.

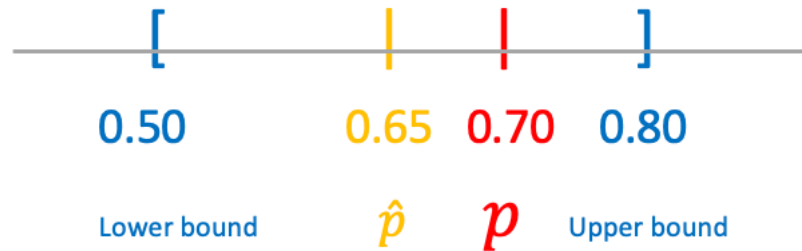


# Now we are ready to dive deeper!

How do we formally build this interval?

What are the different pieces that make up a confidence interval?

How do we interpret the final interval? What does it mean?



# Return to Motivating Example

## How large to make the margin of error?

- We need to determine how large to make the margin of error so that the interval is likely to contain the population proportion (this is the GOAL, to capture the parameter).
- To do this, we use the sampling distribution of  $\hat{p}$ , specifically the CLT formulas for the standard deviation of p-hat  $\sigma_{\hat{p}}$ 
  - For this example, the sample size is  $n = 100$  and the proportion that we know is  $\hat{p} = 0.45$ . So the standard error (think standard deviation) is  $\sigma_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}} = \sqrt{\frac{0.45(1-0.45)}{100}} \approx 0.0497$
- There is one more piece to the margin of error...

## Confidence Level and Critical Value

- Every confidence interval must have a confidence level.
- The confidence level is a percentage between 0% and 100% that measures the success rate of the method used to construct the confidence interval.
- How to we incorporate this into our interval calculation??



# How to Build a Confidence Interval

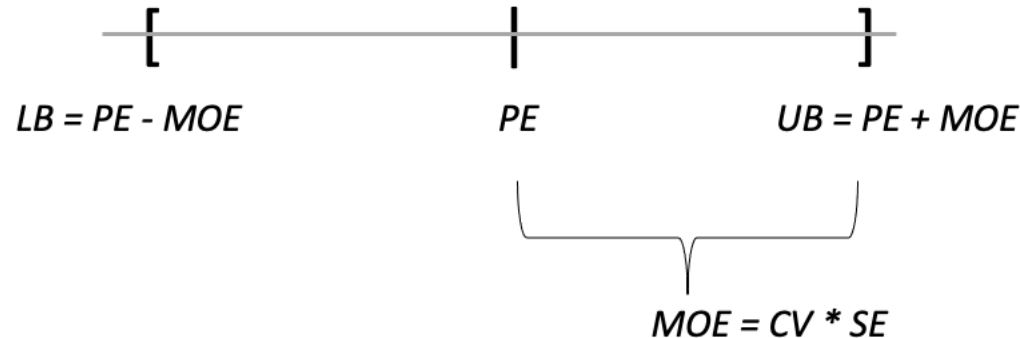
$$\text{C.I.} = \text{Point Estimate} \pm \text{Margin of Error}$$

## Point Estimate

- **Point Estimate** is your best guess; at the center of the interval.
  - Then we extend our guess in both directions in order to provide a wider range of plausible values.
  - This distance is called the **Margin of Error**.

## Margin of Error

- **Margin of Error (MOE)** is what makes our estimates intervals rather than just single points!
  - Made up of two components that will be discussed on the next slide!
  - $\text{MOE} = \text{Critical Value (CV)} * \text{Standard Error (SE)}$ .



# Margin of Error

## Margin of Error

- This determines how much wiggle room we have around our sample proportion

- MOE = Critical Value (CV) x Standard Error (SE)

$$= Z^* \sigma_{\hat{p}}$$

$$= Z^* \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}}$$

MOE = (how many steps to take) x (how big is each step)  
\*\* this is another way to think about it

Now let's breakdown the two pieces!

## Standard Error

- Measures sampling error.
- The *standard deviation of the sampling distribution*  $\hat{p}$  is

$$\sigma_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}$$

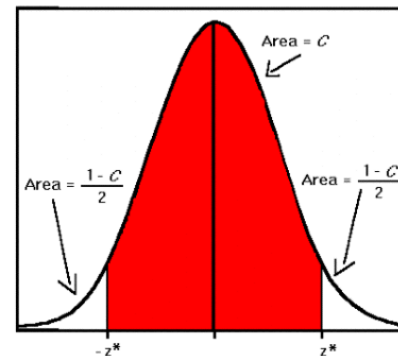
- When we don't know  $p$  (i.e. when making CIs), we substitute  $\hat{p}$  in for  $p$  and it becomes

$$\sigma_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}}$$

- This quantity is now referred to as the standard error!

## Critical Value – Z Star

- In a CI, the point estimate (center) and the SE (step size) are both based on the collected data.
  - There is nothing we can do as the researcher after the fact to change these...
- But we CAN control the Confidence Level of our interval ('We are 95% Confident' or 90%, etc)!
  - We do this by changing the Critical Value (CV),  $Z^*$
  - Said another way, we decide how many steps to take in each direction from our sample proportion!
- The specific values for  $Z^*$  are just the Z-scores that mark the middle %C of the standard normal curve!
- We are going to be given these values in a table!



Confidence Level (%C)	Critical Value $Z^*$
80%	1.28
85%	1.44
90%	1.64
95%	1.96
98%	2.33
99%	2.58

# Return to Motivating Example

Construct final interval: C.I. = Point Estimate  $\pm$  Margin of Error

## Margin of Error

- In our example, the standard error was  $\sigma_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}} = \sqrt{\frac{0.45(1-0.45)}{100}} \approx 0.0497$  and the critical value for a 95% confidence level is 1.96.
- So Margin of Error =  $1.96 \times 0.0497 \approx 0.097$

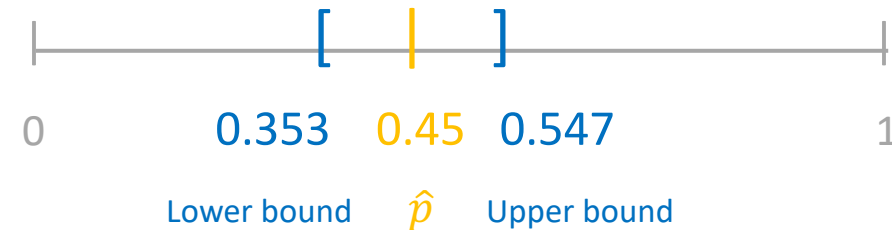
*= 1.96 steps of size 0.0497*

*If we wanted to be more confident, take more steps*

## Confidence Interval

- Point Estimate – Margin of Error  $< p <$  Point Estimate + Margin of Error
- The point estimate was  $\hat{p} = 0.45$  and MOE = 0.097. So a 95% confidence interval is:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{p} - 0.097 &< p < \hat{p} + 0.097 \\ 0.45 - 0.097 &< p < 0.45 + 0.097 \\ \mathbf{0.353} &< \mathbf{p} < \mathbf{0.547}\end{aligned}$$



# Final Confidence Interval for $p$

## 1 Proportion Z Interval

C.I. = Point Estimate  $\pm$  Margin of Error

$$= \hat{p} \pm Z^* \sigma_{\hat{p}}$$

$$= \hat{p} \pm Z^* \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}} \quad \rightarrow \quad \left( \hat{p} - Z^* \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}}, \hat{p} + Z^* \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}} \right)$$

**Recall:** Our point estimate is the sample proportion  $\hat{p} = \frac{x}{n}$ , which represents the number of success divided by the sample size.

# Summarizing LCQ!

## Setup

A NatGeo Poll interviewed 1200 hiking enthusiasts and asked “Are you more afraid of spiders or snakes???” Out of the 1200 people, 768 responded “Ewww, snakes....”. **Calculate** the corresponding *95% confidence interval*!

## Solution

- $p = ??$
- $\hat{p} = ??$
- $CV = ??$
- $SE = ??$
- $MOE = ??$
- $95\% CI = ??$

# Summarizing LCQ!

## Setup

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## Solution

- $p$  = *What is the context?? In words,  $p$  represents the true proportion of hikers that are more afraid of snakes*

- $\hat{p} = \frac{x}{n} = \frac{768}{1200} = 0.64$

- $CV = Z^* = 1.96$

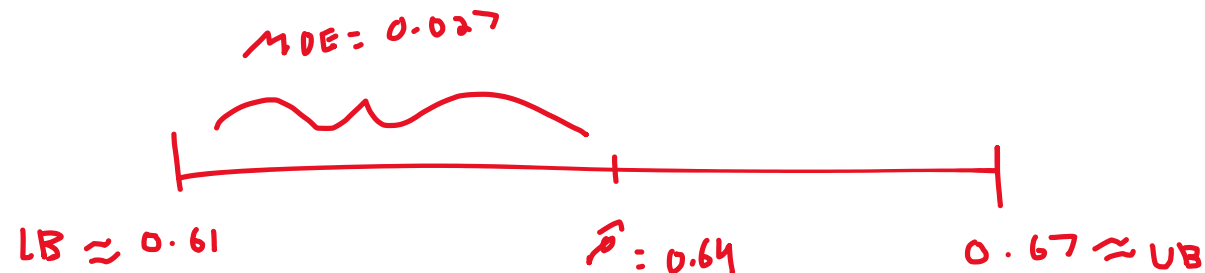
- $SE = \sigma_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}} = \sqrt{\frac{0.64(1-0.64)}{1200}} = 0.0139$

- $MOE = Z^* \sigma_{\hat{p}} = 1.96 * 0.0139 = 0.0272$

- $95\% CI = \hat{p} \pm MOE = 0.064 \pm 0.0272 = (0.6128, 0.6672)$

*\*\* This is how we would have to do it by hand!*

*But we are going to use the Calculator! Phew!*



# Using Calc!

## Setup

A NatGeo Poll interviewed 1200 hiking enthusiasts and asked “Are you more afraid of spiders or snakes???” Out of the 1200 people, 768 responded “Ewww, snakes....”. **Calculate** and **interpret** the corresponding *95% confidence interval*!

**GOAL**: Find the Confidence Interval!

### 1. 1-PropZInt

- a)  $x$  = # of successes (people that said yes)
- b)  $n$  = sample size
- c) C-Level = Confidence level (as a decimal or whole number, both work)

Interpret results:

??

# Using Calc!

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- b)  $n$  = sample size
- c) C-Level = Confidence level (as a decimal or whole number, both work)

```
NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL Radian MP
1-PropZInt
x:768
n:1200
C-Level:0.95
Calculate
```

```
NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL Radian MP
1-PropZInt
(0.61284,0.66716)
p̂=0.64
n=1200
```

Show work:  $95\% \text{ CI} = 1\text{-PropZInt}(x = 768, n = 1200, \text{C-Level} = 0.95) \rightarrow (0.6128, 0.66716)$

*\*\* Can just copy and paste the general structure and fill in the information and results for this specific problem!!*

I am % confident that the true/population parameter + context is between (lower bound) and (upper bound).

Interpret results:

I am 95% confident that the true proportion of hikers who are more afraid of snakes than spiders is between 0.6128 and 0.6672.



# Interpreting Confidence Intervals

## General Structure

I am C% confident that the true/population parameter + context is between (lower bound) and (upper bound).

## Example

*True = population (they mean the same thing)  
Parameter will either be MEAN or PROPORTION*

Trying to estimate the proportion of all Columbus residents who enjoy running → 95% CI = (0.05, 0.25)

- We are **95% confident** that the **true (population) proportion of all Columbus residents who enjoy running** is **between 0.05 and 0.25**.

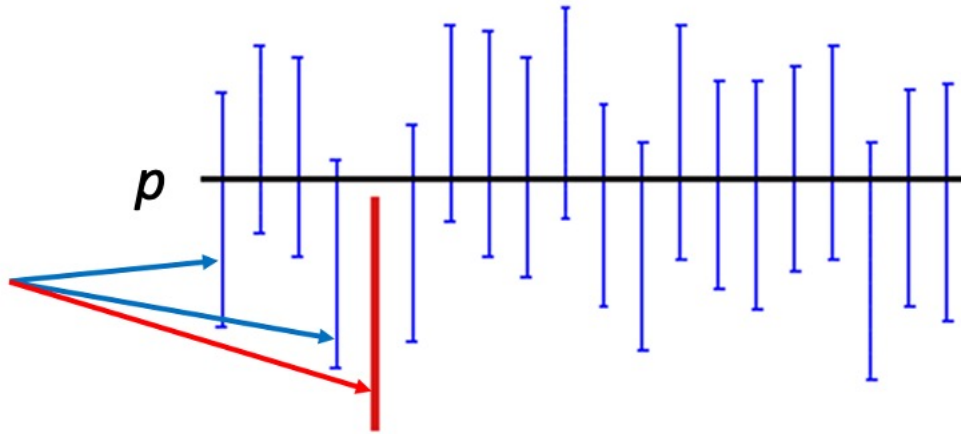
## 3 Pieces

1. **95% Confident: This is a Confidence Statement**
  - Tells us what percent off ALL possible samples result in a CI that captures the true proportion.
2. **Parameter + Context: We are talking about population proportions.**
  - But what population proportion??? We ALWAYS need context.
3. **Interval: The range of plausible values!**
  - Uses our sample statistic and MOE.

# Interpreting Confidence Intervals

## Confidence Interval Interpretation Visualized

Each of these  
are Confidence  
Intervals taken  
from different  
samples of the  
same size.



A 95% confidence interval indicates that 19 out of 20 samples (95%) from the same population will produce confidence intervals that contain the population parameter.

[Dope applet!](#)

### **Very Important!**

- The confidence level is NOT the probability the parameter is in the interval.
- It refers to the long run capture rate (i.e. over many, many intervals constructed in the same way).
- Either the interval contains the parameter or it does not.

# Another LCQ

**Setup:** 15 out of 23 people from a random sample said their National Championship team is still remaining in their NCAA March Madness Bracket.

1) Calculate the 90% Confidence Interval.

2) Interpret this interval.

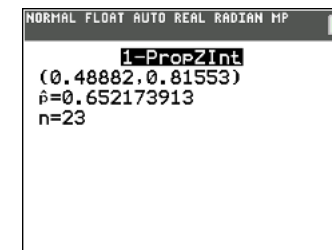
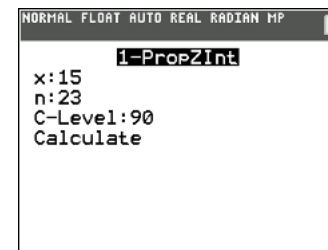
# Another LCQ

**Setup:** 15 out of 23 people from a random sample said their National Championship team is still remaining in their NCAA March Madness Bracket.

1) Calculate the 90% Confidence Interval.

*90% CI = 1-PropZInt(x = 15, n = 23, C-Level = 90) → (0.489, 0.816)*

*Writing out the calculator function and inputs like this is how we would show work for calculating our interval!*



2) Interpret this interval.

*We are 90% confident that the true proportion of people who's national championship team is still remaining in their March Madness bracket is between 0.489 and 0.816. → This a PERFECT interpretation!*

*Examples of INCORRECT (and common) interpretations!*

*There's a 90% chance that the sample proportion of people who's national championship team is still remaining is between 0.489 and 0.816. → TWO things wrong*

- 'confident' means something specific in Statistics, do NOT want to use the word 'chance' 'probability', etc.*
- We are trying to estimate the TRUE or the POPULATION proportion, that's the goal. NOT the SAMPLE proportion, we already know what that is. So do NOT say 'sample'*

*We are 90% Confident that the population proportion is between 0.489 and 0.816. → MISSING CONTEXT! Have to say what this proportion represents!*

# Another LCQ

**Problem:** From a random sample of 65 students, 40% said they prefer to wake up early to do their homework rather than stay up late.

Calculate and interpret the 98% confidence interval.

Solution

# Another LCQ

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Calculate and interpret the 98% confidence interval.

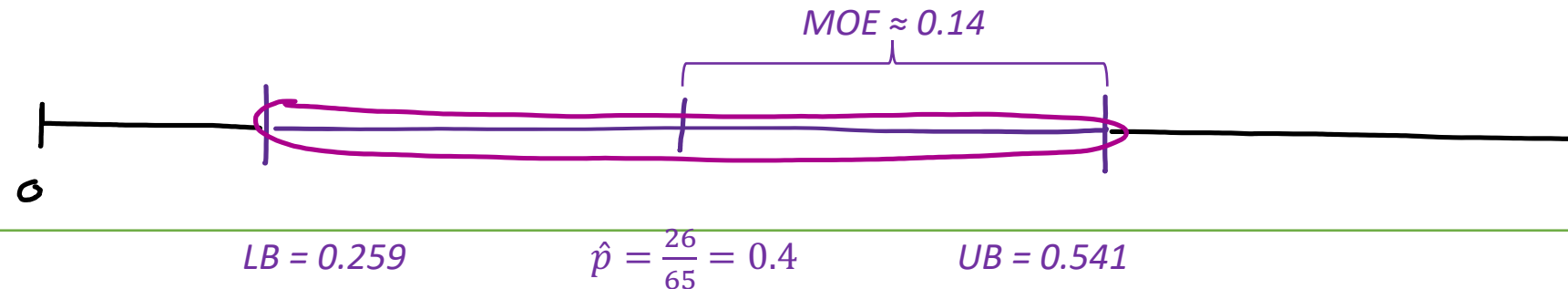
## Solution

Calculate Interval:

- *1-PropZInt*
  - $x = 26 (=0.4(65))$
  - $n = 65$
  - *Confidence = 0.98*
- *Result = (0.25864, 0.54136)*

Interpret Interval:

*We are 98% confident that the true proportion of students who prefer to wake up early to do their homework is between 0.259 and 0.541*



# One more LCQ

**Setup:** From a random sample 500 people, 64% said they prefer to vacation at the beach compared to the mountains.

1) Calculate the 85% Confidence Interval.

**Recall:** Our point estimate is the sample proportion  $\hat{p} = \frac{x}{n}$ , which represents the number of success divided by the sample size.

2) If I increase the sample size to 600 (*and keep  $\hat{p} = 0.64 \rightarrow \text{new } x = 600(0.64) = 384$* ), what will happen to the new confidence interval (wider, narrower, stay the same)?

3) If I change the Interval from Question 1 to be 90% Confident, what will happen to the new confidence interval (wider, narrower, stay the same)?

# One more LCQ

**Setup:** From a random sample 500 people, 64% said they prefer to vacation at the beach compared to the mountains.

1) Calculate the 85% Confidence Interval.

*85% CI = 1-PropZInt(x = 320, n = 500, C-Level = 0.85) → (0.6091, 0.6709)*

- Have to type in x, but weren't given it directly
- So need to calculate it using  $\hat{p}$  and n

```
NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL Radian MP
1-PropZInt
x:0.64(500)
n:500
C-Level:85
Calculate
```

```
NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL Radian MP
1-PropZInt
x:320
n:500
C-Level:85
Calculate
```

```
NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL Radian MP
1-PropZInt
(0.6091,0.6709)
p̂=0.64
n=500
```

2) If I increase the sample size to 600 (and keep  $\hat{p} = 0.64 \rightarrow \text{new } x = 600(0.64) = 384$ ), what will happen to the new confidence interval (wider, narrower, stay the same)?

*Interval becomes narrower!*

- This is because of the MOE, and specifically the standard error!

$$MOE = Z^* \sigma_{\hat{p}}$$

$$= Z^* \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}}$$

- If the confidence level stays the same, then the  $Z^*$  value doesn't change
- BUT with a larger sample size, in the standard error equation we are dividing by a larger number.
- Thus making that overall quantity smaller and the MOE smaller → and confidence interval becomes narrower!

```
NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL Radian MP
1-PropZInt
x:0.64(600)
n:600
C-Level:85
Calculate
```

```
NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL Radian MP
1-PropZInt
x:384
n:600
C-Level:85
Calculate
```

```
NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL Radian MP
1-PropZInt
(0.61179,0.66821)
p̂=0.64
n=600
```

*NOTE: I had to change x so that the  $\hat{p}$  stayed the same*

3) If I change the Interval from Question 1 to be 90% Confident, what will happen to the new confidence interval (wider, narrower, stay the same)?

*It becomes wider.*

- Same idea as number 2, BUT now the standard error remains the same (because of the same n and  $\hat{p}$ ).
- And the  $Z^*$  value changes because of the new confidence level!
- To be more confident, we need to cover more values.
  - So have a larger critical value
- This makes the MOE increase and our CI become wider!

```
NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL Radian MP
1-PropZInt
x:320
n:500
C-Level:90
Calculate
```

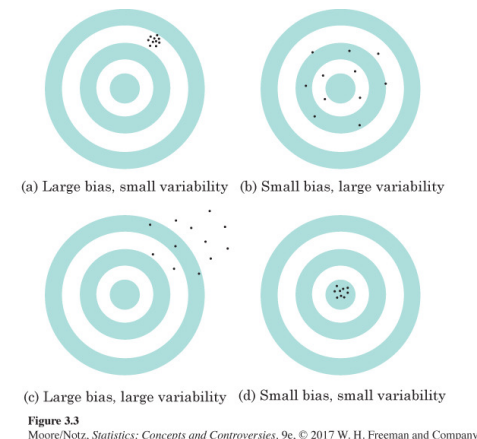
```
NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL Radian MP
1-PropZInt
(0.60469,0.67531)
p̂=0.64
n=500
```



# Summary of ideas from previous LCQ

## Precision

- Thinking back to sampling variability in surveys from Unit 1, we wanted to have good sampling methods so that our sample statistics could be precise (precision is GOOD)!
- This same concept is present with Confidence Intervals!



## Precision with Confidence Intervals

- There are two ways to get a **more precise (narrower) confidence interval!**

1. Increase the sample size (before collecting data **GOOD!**)

- This decreases the standard error and as a result the MOE.

(\*\* Assuming everything else remains the same)

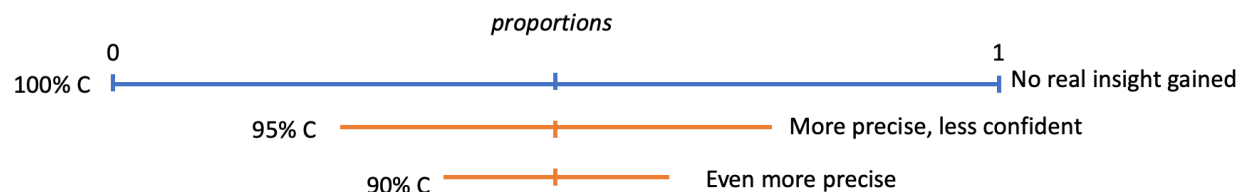
2. Decrease the confidence level (after the fact, **not so good**)

- This decreases the critical value and as a result the MOE.



## Tradeoff between Precision and Confidence

- If we want to be more confident, we need to cover more values!
- That of course decreases the precision...
- So there a pro / con to being super confident



# Margin of Error Revisited

Recall: **MOE** is what you add and subtract from the point estimate to get the bounds of the confidence interval.

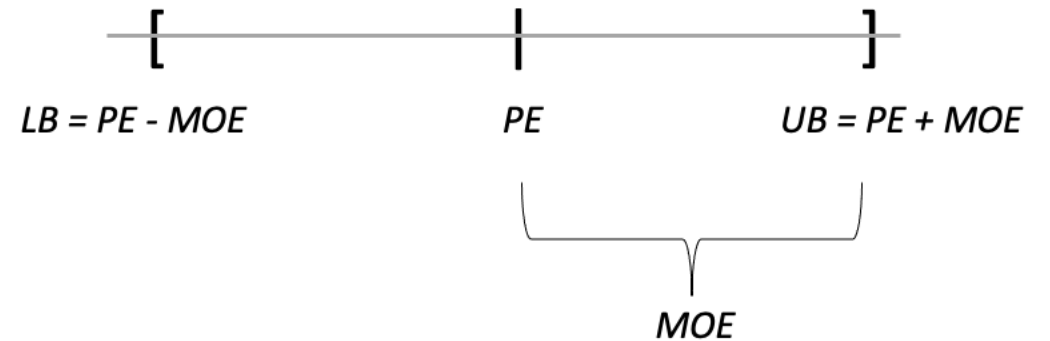
- If you are given an interval, we can start by finding the **width** of the interval:

- $\text{Width} = \text{UB} - \text{LB}$

- Then we can easily find the **margin of error**:

- $\text{Margin of Error} = \frac{\text{Width}}{2} = \frac{\text{UB} - \text{LB}}{2}$

- This gives us another expression for the **width**:  $\text{Width} = 2 * \text{MOE}$



## Example:

Find the Width and MOE based on the following output:

```
NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL RADIAN MP
1-PropZInt
(0.6091, 0.6709)
p̂=0.64
n=500
```

# Margin of Error Revisited

Recall: **MOE** is what you add and subtract from the point estimate to get the bounds of the confidence interval.

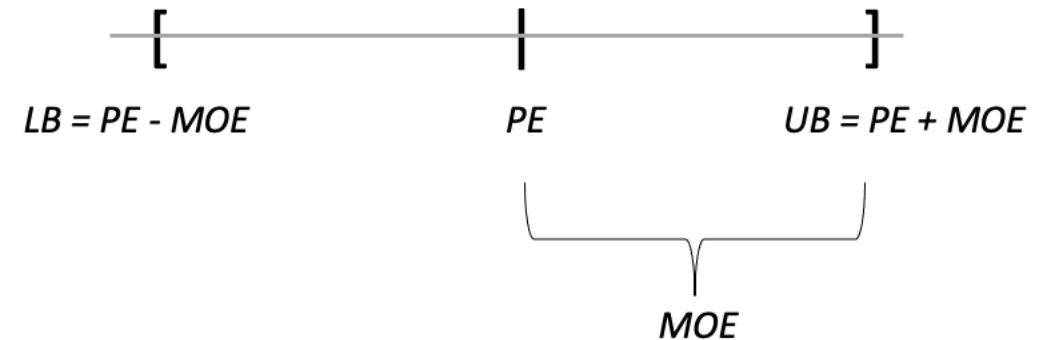
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## Example:

Find the Width and MOE based on the following output:

```
NORMAL FLOAT AUTO REAL RADIAN MP
1-PropZInt
(0.6091, 0.6709)
p̂=0.64
n=500
```

$$\text{Width} = \text{UB} - \text{LB} = 0.6709 - 0.6091 = 0.0618$$

$$\text{MOE} = \text{width} / 2 = 0.0618 / 2 = 0.0309$$