# **Lecture 22 Confidence Interval For The Proportion**

**BIO210** Biostatistics

Xi Chen

Spring, 2025

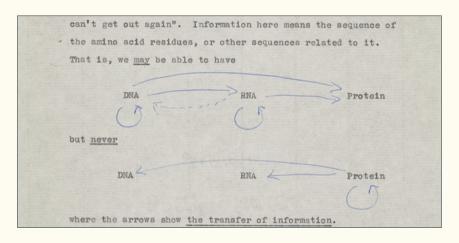
School of Life Sciences
Southern University of Science and Technology



## **Population Parameters We Have Learnt**

Population parameters	Sample statistics
$\mu$	$\bar{x}$
$\sigma^2$	$s^2$
$\sigma$	s
$\pi$ or $p$	$p$ or $\hat{p}$

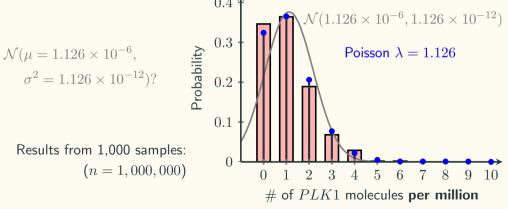
### The Central Dogma



Credit: "Ideas on protein synthesis (Oct. 1956)". Wellcome Collection.

## **Sample Proportion Example**

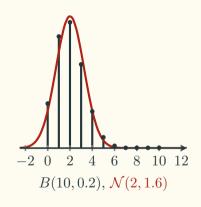
Gene expression (over-simplified RNA-seq): We know the probability of detecting PLK1 is  $\pi=0.000001126088083$ . If we take a random sample of n=1,000,000 mRNA molecules, what is the sampling distribution of proportion of PLK1?

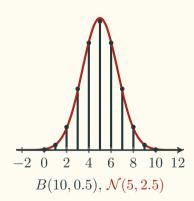


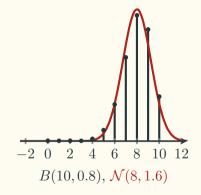
# **Approximation of The Binomial Distribution**

$$B(n,p) \begin{cases} \dot{\sim} \ \mathcal{N}(\mu=np,\sigma^2=npq) & , \text{ when } np\geqslant 10 \text{ and } nq\geqslant 10 \\ \\ \dot{\sim} \ Pois(\lambda=np) & , \text{ when } n \text{ is large, and } p \text{ is small,} \\ \\ \text{such that } np \text{ is between } 0 \text{ and } 10. \end{cases}$$

# The Limitations on np and nq







## The Limitations on np and nq

- ullet Binomial: all data are within [0,n]
- Normal: no bounds  $(-\infty, +\infty)$  for data, but most are within  $[\mu 3\sigma, \ \mu + 3\sigma]$
- Intuitively: when  $[\mu 3\sigma, \ \mu + 3\sigma]$  is within [0, n], the approximation works well!

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mu - 3\sigma > 0 & \mu + 3\sigma < n \\ np - 3\sqrt{npq} > 0 & np + 3\sqrt{npq} < n \\ np > 3\sqrt{npq} & n(1-p) > 3\sqrt{npq} \\ n^2p^2 > 9npq & n^2q^2 > 9npq \\ np > 9q & nq > 9p \\ np > 9(1-p) = 9 - 9p & nq > 9(1-q) = 9 - 9q \end{array}$$

### **Interval Estimation For The Proportion**

**Goal**: for a population containing an unknown proportion  $(\pi)$  of data of our interest, find a and b, such that  $\mathbb{P}(a \leqslant \pi \leqslant b) = 0.95$ .

$$\mathbb{P}\left(-1.96 \leqslant Z \leqslant 1.96\right) = 0.95$$

$$\mathbb{P}\left(-1.96 \leqslant \frac{p - \mu_P}{\sigma_P} \leqslant 1.96\right) = 0.95$$

$$\mathbb{P}\left(-1.96 \leqslant \frac{p - \pi}{\sqrt{\frac{\pi(1 - \pi)}{n}}} \leqslant 1.96\right) = 0.95$$

$$\mathbb{P}\left(p - 1.96\sqrt{\frac{\pi(1 - \pi)}{n}} \leqslant \pi \leqslant p + 1.96\sqrt{\frac{\pi(1 - \pi)}{n}}\right) = 0.95$$

## **Confidence Interval For The Proportion**

#### 95% CI For The Sample Proportion

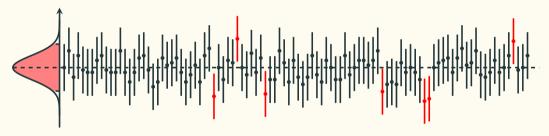
The Wald Interval:

$$\left[p - 1.96\sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}, p + 1.96\sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}\right]$$

• Not using t-distribution? - You don't need to! Remember  $\sigma_P = \sqrt{\frac{\pi(1-\pi)}{n}}$ , and when p is calculated to estimate  $\pi$ , then  $\sigma_P$  is automatically determined, unlike in the situation of the mean, where you have to do extra (independent) calculation of s to estimate  $\sigma$ , which causes the extra error.

### Simulation of 95% CI For The Proportion

100 95% CI for the proportion, constructed using the Wald interval



### An Example in Lecture 1

#### Probability vs. Statistics

Probability: Previous studies showed that the drug was 80% effective. Then

we can anticipate that for a study on 100 patients, on average 80 will be cured and at least 65 will be cured with 99.99%

chance.

Statistics: We observe that 78/100 patients were cured by the drug. We

will be able to conclude that we are 95% confident that for other studies the drug will be effective on between 69.88% and

86.11% of patients.

## Sample Size Estimation Using Confidence Interval of The Proportion

**Estimate Sample Size**: We want to estimate the percentage of people cured by the drug. Suppose we could draw a truly random sample, and we want a 95% confidence interval estimation with a margin of error no more than  $\pm\,2\%$ . What is the smallest sample size required to obtain the desired margin of error ?

$$95\%$$
 confidence interval:  $p \pm 1.96\sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}$ 

Goal: find the smallest n such that it guarantees that  $1.96\sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}} \leqslant 0.02$ 

# **Conditions For Interval Estimation For The Proportion**

- 1. Random Samples
- 2. Normal Condition: the sampling distribution of p needs to be normal
  - $np \geqslant 10$
  - $nq \geqslant 10$

3. Independence (n < 10% population size)

## What to do when the normal condition is not met?

- Wilson score interval
- Jeffreys interval
- Agresti-Coull interval
- Arcsine transformation
- Clopper–Pearson interval (the exact method)