

# Chapter 9: Estimation from Sample Data



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- In chapter 7, we had access to the population mean  $\bar{x}$  and we made probability statements about individual  $x$  values taken from the population.
- In Chapter 8, we began with a population having a known mean  $\mu$  or proportion  $p$ ;
- Then we examined the sampling distribution of the corresponding sample statistic ( $\bar{x}$  or  $\hat{p}$ ) for samples of a given size,  $n$ .
- In this chapter, we'll be going in the opposite direction: based on sample data, we will be making estimates involving the (unknown) value of the population mean or proportion.

# Point versus interval estimates



## Definition

A *point estimate* of a population parameter is a single number that estimates the exact value of that parameter.

An *interval estimate* of a population parameter is an interval which includes a range of possible values that are likely to include the actual population parameter.

## Example

Suppose the average GPA in a sample of 100 Fordham students is 3.3, what is the average GPA at Fordham?

*point estimate*  $\mu = 3.3$

*interval estimate*:  $\mu \in [2.8, 3.7]$

# Unbiased Estimators



An estimator is *unbiased* if the expected value of the sample statistic is the same as the actual value of the population parameter it is intended to estimate. For example  $\bar{x}$ ,  $\hat{p}$ , and  $s^2$  are unbiased estimators of  $\mu$ ,  $p$ , and  $\sigma^2$ , respectively.

Parameter	Estimator	Formula	Expected Value
Mean: $\mu$	$\bar{x}$	$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n}$	$\mathbb{E}[\bar{x}] = \mu$
Proportion: $p$	$\hat{p}$	$\hat{p} = \frac{x}{n}$	$\mathbb{E}[\hat{p}] = p$
Variance, $\sigma^2$	$s^2$	$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{(n-1)}$	$\mathbb{E}[s^2] = \sigma^2$

# Confidence Intervals: Definitions



- **INTERVAL ESTIMATE:** A range of values within which the actual value of the population parameter may fall.
- **CONFIDENCE INTERVAL:** An interval estimate for which there is a **specified degree of certainty** that the actual value of the population parameter will fall within the interval.
- **CONFIDENCE LEVEL:** This expresses the degree of certainty that an interval will include the actual value of the population parameter. It is usually stated as a percentage, commonly 90%, 95%, or 99%.
- **LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE  $\alpha$ :** This expresses the the probability that an interval will **NOT** include the actual value of the population parameter. Note that  $\alpha = 1 - \text{Confidence Level}$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean



Suppose we take a simple random sample of size  $n$  from a population, and let  $\bar{x}$  be the mean of this sample and  $s^2$  its standard deviation. Estimating a confidence interval around the mean  $\mu$  depends on whether or not the population's standard deviation  $\sigma$  is known:

$$\text{If } \sigma = \begin{cases} \text{is known} & \mu \in [\bar{x} \pm z * \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}] \\ \text{is unknown} & \mu \in [\bar{x} \pm t * \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}], \text{ and } df = n - 1 \end{cases}$$

Where  $z$  = the  $z$ score corresponding to the level of confidence desired. For example,  $z = 1.96$  corresponds to the 95% confidence level.

We will come back to  $t$  later.

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known



Suppose we take a simple random sample of size  $n$ , with  $\bar{x}$ ,  $s^2$ . Also, suppose  $\sigma$  is known, then

$$\mu \in \left[ \bar{x} \pm z * \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right]$$

Where  $z$  = the zscore corresponding to the level of confidence desired.

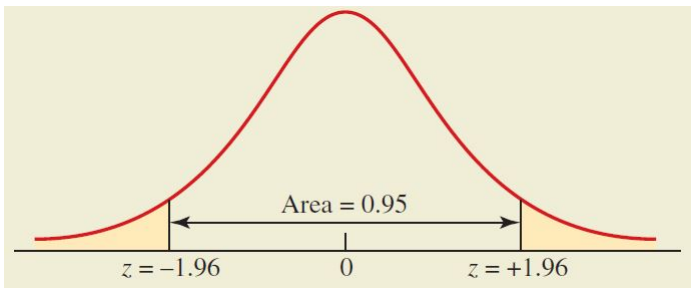
Assumptions: this assumes that either (1) **the underlying population is normally distributed** or (2) **the sample size is  $n > 30$** .



# $z$ Scores for Confidence Intervals

Commonly used confidence intervals and their corresponding  $z$  values:

Confidence	90%	95%	98%	99%
$z$	1.645	1.96	2.33	2.58





# $z$ Scores for Confidence Intervals: Example



Find the  $z$  score associated with 85% confidence level.

**Answer:**

# $z$ Scores for Confidence Intervals: Example



Find the  $z$  score associated with 85% confidence level.

**Answer:** We want  $z$  such that  $P[-z < Z < z] = 0.85$ . Notice, it's sufficient to find  $z$  or  $-z$ . So:

- 1 To find  $z$ , note that  $P[-z < Z < z] = 0.85$  implies that  $P[Z > z] = \frac{1-0.85}{2}$ , due to the symmetry of the normal distribution.

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This implies that  $P[Z < z] = 1 - \frac{1-0.85}{2} = 0.925$ .

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Using this probability with the  $Z$  table, we can find that  $z = 1.44$ .

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Notice we can stop here because  $-z = -1.44$

- 2 To find  $-z$ , note that  $P[-z < Z < z] = 0.85$  implies,  $P[-z < Z] = \frac{1-0.85}{2} = 0.075$  due to the symmetry of the normal distribution.

# $z$ Scores for Confidence Intervals: Example



Find the  $z$  score associated with 85% confidence level.

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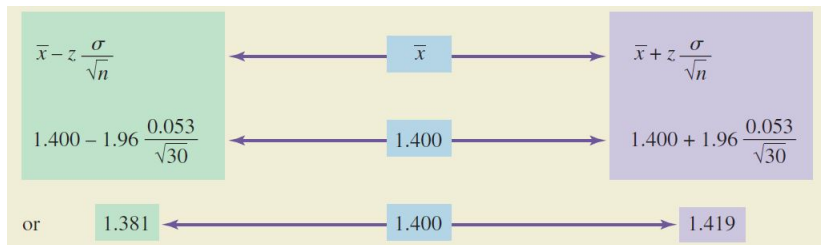
Using this probability with the  $Z$  table, we can find that

$-z = -1.44$ .

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 1



From past experience, the population standard deviation of rod diameters produced by a machine has been found to be  $\sigma = 0.053$  inches. For a simple random sample of  $n = 30$  rods, the average diameter is found to be  $\bar{x} = 1.4$  inches. What Is the 95% Confidence Interval for the Population Mean,  $\mu$ ?



# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 2



The following data values are a simple random sample from a population that is normally distributed, with  $\sigma = 4$ :  
{8, 10, 7, 8, 5, 13, 7, 10, 4, 6}. Construct and interpret the 90%, 95%, and 99% confidence intervals for the population mean,  $\mu$ .

Answer: Notice that  $n =$



# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 2



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 $\{8, 10, 7, 8, 5, 13, 7, 10, 4, 6\}$ . Construct and interpret the 90%, 95%, and 99% confidence intervals for the population mean,  $\mu$ .

Answer: Notice that  $n = 10$ ,  $\bar{x} =$

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 $\{8, 10, 7, 8, 5, 13, 7, 10, 4, 6\}$ . Construct and interpret the 90%, 95%, and 99% confidence intervals for the population mean,  $\mu$ .

Answer: Notice that  $n = 10$ ,  $\bar{x} = 7.8$ , and  $\sigma = 4$ . So depending on the confidence level:

90% CI:  $\mu \in$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 2



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 $\{8, 10, 7, 8, 5, 13, 7, 10, 4, 6\}$ . Construct and interpret the 90%, 95%, and 99% confidence intervals for the population mean,  $\mu$ .

Answer: Notice that  $n = 10$ ,  $\bar{x} = 7.8$ , and  $\sigma = 4$ . So depending on the confidence level:

$$90\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in \left[ 7.8 - 1.645 \frac{4}{\sqrt{10}}, 7.8 + 1.645 \frac{4}{\sqrt{10}} \right] \Rightarrow \mu \in [5.7192, 9.8808]$$

$$95\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in$$

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$$95\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in \left[ 7.8 - 1.96 \frac{4}{\sqrt{10}}, 7.8 + 1.96 \frac{4}{\sqrt{10}} \right] \Rightarrow \mu \in [5.3208, 10.2792]$$

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# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 2



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$$99\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in \left[ 7.8 - 2.58 \frac{4}{\sqrt{10}}, 7.8 + 2.58 \frac{4}{\sqrt{10}} \right] \Rightarrow \mu \in [4.5365, 11.0635]$$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 3



A simple random sample of 30 has been collected from a population for which it is known that  $\sigma = 10$ . The sample mean has been calculated as  $\bar{x} = 240$ . Construct and interpret the 90%, 95%, and 99% confidence intervals for the population mean,  $\mu$ .

Answer: Notice that  $n =$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 3



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Answer: Notice that  $n = 30$ ,  $\bar{x} =$

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Answer: Notice that  $n = 30$ ,  $\bar{x} = 240$  and  $\sigma = 10$ . So depending on the confidence level:

90% CI:  $\mu \in$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 3



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Answer: Notice that  $n = 30$ ,  $\bar{x} = 240$  and  $\sigma = 10$ . So depending on the confidence level:

$$90\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in \left[240 - 1.645 \frac{10}{\sqrt{30}}, 240 + 1.645 \frac{10}{\sqrt{30}}\right] \Rightarrow \mu \in [236.997, 243.003]$$

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$$99\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in$$

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$$99\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in \left[ 240 - 2.58 \frac{10}{\sqrt{30}}, 240 + 2.58 \frac{10}{\sqrt{30}} \right] \Rightarrow \mu \in [235.2896, 244.7104]$$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 4



A simple random sample of 25 has been collected from a normally distributed population for which it is known that  $\sigma = 17$ . The sample mean has been calculated as 342.0, and the sample standard deviation is  $s = 14.9$ . Construct and interpret the 90%, 95%, and 99% confidence intervals for the population mean,  $\mu$ .

Answer: Notice that  $n =$

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Answer: Notice that  $n = 25$ ,  $\bar{x} = 342$ , and  $\sigma = 17$ . So depending on the confidence level:

$$90\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in \left[ 342 - 1.645 \frac{17}{\sqrt{25}}, 342 + 1.645 \frac{17}{\sqrt{25}} \right] \Rightarrow \mu \in [336.407, 347.593]$$

$$95\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in$$



# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 4



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$$95\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in \left[ 342 - 1.96 \frac{17}{\sqrt{25}}, 342 + 1.96 \frac{17}{\sqrt{25}} \right] \Rightarrow \mu \in [335.336, 348.664]$$

$$99\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in$$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 4



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$$99\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in \left[ 342 - 2.58 \frac{17}{\sqrt{25}}, 342 + 2.58 \frac{17}{\sqrt{25}} \right] \Rightarrow \mu \in [333.228, 350.772]$$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 5



You want to rent a one-bedroom apartment in NYC. You find the mean monthly rent for a random sample of 60 apartments advertised on Craig's List is \$1600. Assume a population standard deviation of \$400. Construct 90%, 95%, and 99% confidence intervals for the average monthly one-bedroom rent in NYC.

Answer: Notice that  $n =$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 5



You want to rent a one-bedroom apartment in NYC. You find the mean monthly rent for a random sample of 60 apartments advertised on Craig's List is \$1600. Assume a population standard deviation of \$400. Construct 90%, 95%, and 99% confidence intervals for the average monthly one-bedroom rent in NYC.

Answer: Notice that  $n = 60$ ,  $\bar{x} =$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 5



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Answer: Notice that  $n = 60$ ,  $\bar{x} = 342$ , and  $\sigma = 17$ . So depending on the confidence level:

90% CI:  $\mu \in$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 5



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Answer: Notice that  $n = 60$ ,  $\bar{x} = 342$ , and  $\sigma = 17$ . So depending on the confidence level:

$$90\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in [1600 - 1.645 \frac{400}{\sqrt{60}}, 1600 + 1.645 \frac{400}{\sqrt{60}}] \Rightarrow \mu \in [1515.1, 1684.9]$$

$$95\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in$$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 5



You want to rent a one-bedroom apartment in NYC. You find the mean monthly rent for a random sample of 60 apartments advertised on Craig's List is \$1600. Assume a population standard deviation of \$400. Construct 90%, 95%, and 99% confidence intervals for the average monthly one-bedroom rent in NYC.

Answer: Notice that  $n = 60$ ,  $\bar{x} = 1600$ , and  $\sigma = 400$ . So depending on the confidence level:

$$90\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in \left[ 1600 - 1.645 \frac{400}{\sqrt{60}}, 1600 + 1.645 \frac{400}{\sqrt{60}} \right] \Rightarrow \mu \in [1515.1, 1684.9]$$

$$95\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in \left[ 1600 - 1.96 \frac{400}{\sqrt{60}}, 1600 + 1.96 \frac{400}{\sqrt{60}} \right] \Rightarrow \mu \in [1498.8, 1701.2]$$

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# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is known, Example 5



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$$95\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in \left[1600 - 1.96 \frac{400}{\sqrt{60}}, 1600 + 1.96 \frac{400}{\sqrt{60}}\right] \Rightarrow \mu \in [1498.8, 1701.2]$$

$$99\% \text{ CI: } \mu \in \left[1600 - 2.58 \frac{400}{\sqrt{60}}, 1600 + 2.58 \frac{400}{\sqrt{60}}\right] \Rightarrow \mu \in [1466.8, 1733.2]$$



# Confidence Interval Estimate for the Population Proportion



Suppose a proportion  $p$  of individuals in a population have a certain trait, and assume we don't know the value of  $p$ . Take a sample of size  $n$ , and let  $\hat{p}$  be the proportion of individuals in the sample with that trait. We can construct a confidence interval for the population proportion  $p$  as follows:

$$p \in \left[ \hat{p} \pm z * \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1 - \hat{p})}{n}} \right] = \left[ \hat{p} \pm z * \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}\hat{q}}{n}} \right]$$

This assumes the normal distribution as an approximation to the binomial distribution, which holds whenever  $n\hat{p} > 5$  and  $n\hat{q} > 5$ . The approximation becomes better for large values of  $n$  and whenever  $\hat{p}$  is closer to 0.5.

# Confidence Interval Estimate for the Population Proportion: Example 1



Out of a sample of 1008 adults, 22% responded YES to a survey question. What is the 95% confidence interval for the population proportion who would have answered “YES” to the same question?

Answer:  $\hat{p} = 0.22$ , and  $z = \pm 1.96$ , so

$$p \in \left[ \hat{p} \pm z * \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}\hat{q}}{n}} \right] = \left[ 0.22 \pm 1.96 * \sqrt{\frac{0.22 * 0.78}{1008}} \right] = [0.194, 0.246]$$

# Confidence Interval Estimate for the Population Proportion: Example 2



A pharmaceutical company found that 46% of 1000 U.S. adults surveyed knew neither their blood pressure nor their cholesterol level. Assuming the persons surveyed to be a simple random sample of U.S. adults, construct 99% confidence interval for  $p$ , the population proportion of U.S. adults who would have given the same answer if a census had been taken instead of a survey.

Answer:  $\hat{p} = 0.46$ , and  $z = \pm 2.58$ , so 99% CI:

$p \in$

# Confidence Interval Estimate for the Population Proportion: Example 2



A pharmaceutical company found that 46% of 1000 U.S. adults surveyed knew neither their blood pressure nor their cholesterol level. Assuming the persons surveyed to be a simple random sample of U.S. adults, construct 99% confidence interval for  $p$ , the population proportion of U.S. adults who would have given the same answer if a census had been taken instead of a survey.

Answer:  $\hat{p} = 0.46$ , and  $z = \pm 2.58$ , so 99% CI:

$$p \in \left[ \hat{p} \pm z * \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}\hat{q}}{n}} \right] = \left[ 0.46 \pm 2.58 * \sqrt{\frac{0.46*0.54}{1000}} \right] = [0.42, 0.50]$$

# Confidence Interval Estimate for the Population Proportion: Example 3



An airline has surveyed a simple random sample of air travelers to find out whether they would be interested in paying a higher fare in order to have access to e-mail during their flight. Of the 400 travelers surveyed, 80 said email access would be worth a slight extra cost. Construct 90% confidence interval for the population proportion of air travelers who are in favor of the airline's email idea.

Answer:  $\hat{p} = \frac{80}{400} = 0.2$ , and  $z = \pm 1.645$ , so 99% CI:

$p \in$

# Confidence Interval Estimate for the Population Proportion: Example 3

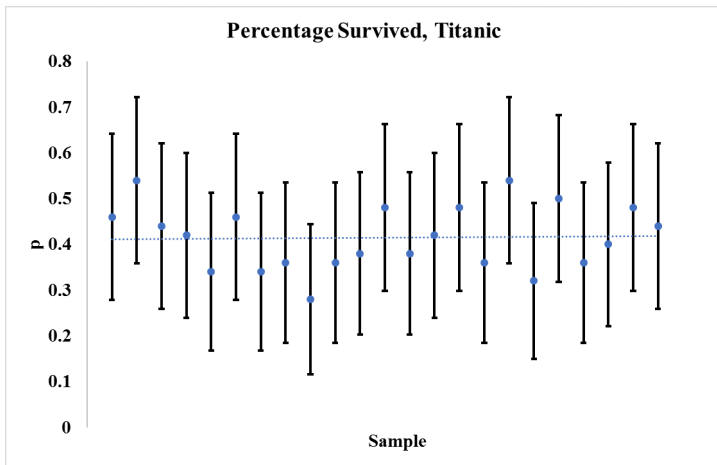


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Answer:  $\hat{p} = \frac{80}{400} = 0.2$ , and  $z = \pm 1.645$ , so 99% CI:

$$p \in \left[ \hat{p} \pm z * \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}\hat{q}}{n}} \right] = \left[ 0.2 \pm 1.645 * \sqrt{\frac{0.2*0.8}{400}} \right] = [0.18, 0.22]$$

# Titanic: Estimating the Proportion Survived



# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is unknown



Suppose we take a simple random sample of size  $n$ , with mean  $\bar{x}$  and standard deviation  $s$ . Also, suppose  $\sigma$  is unknown, then

$$\mu \in \left[ \bar{x} \pm t * \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} \right]$$

Where  $t$  = the  $t$  score corresponding to the level of confidence with  $n - 1$  degrees of freedom, or  $df = n - 1$ .

Assumptions: this assumes that either (1) the underlying population is normally distributed or (2) the sample size is  $n > 30$ .

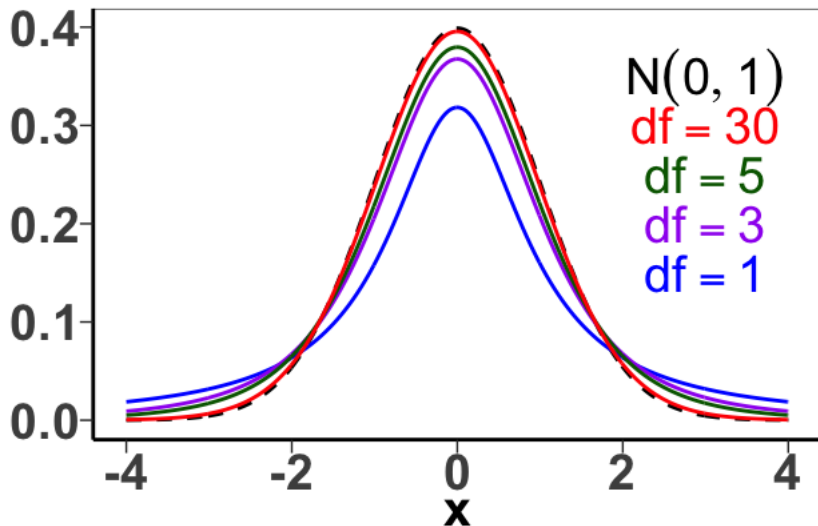


# The Student's $t$ Distribution



- It is rare that we know the standard deviation,  $\sigma$ , of a population but have no knowledge about its mean,  $\mu$ .
- Whenever the population standard deviation,  $\sigma$ , is unknown, it must be estimated by the sample standard deviation,  $s$ .
- There is a continuous distribution called the Student's  $t$  distribution that allows you to do this.
- It has a mean of zero, but its shape is determined by the number of *degrees of freedom* ( $df$ ).

# Comparing the Normal and $t$ distributions

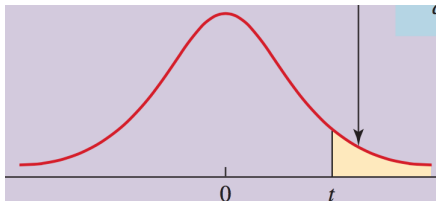


# Using The $t$ Distribution Table: Example 1



- Like a  $z$  score,  $t$  represents the distance in terms of standard error (standard deviation) units.
- Unlike the  $z$  Table, the  $t$  Table provides areas to the **right** of the  $t$  score given the number of degrees of freedom (df). This area is called  $\alpha$ .
- Example: For a sample size of  $n = 15$ , what  $t$  values would correspond to an area centered at  $t = 0$  and having an area beneath the curve of 95%?

$n = 15$ ,  $df = n - 1 = 14$ , and the area under the curve is 0.95. This leaves 0.05, equally distributed between the two tails. We want  $t$  to the right of which the area under the curve is 0.025. From the  $t$  Table,  $\alpha = 0.025$ ,  $df = 14$ , we have:  $t = \pm 2.145$ . Compare this to  $z = \pm 1.96$ .



## Using The $t$ Distribution Table: Example 2



For a sample size of  $n = 99$ , what  $t$  values would correspond to an area centered at  $t = 0$  and having an area beneath the curve of 90%?

$n = 99$ ,  $df = n - 1 = 98$ , and the area under the curve is 0.90. This leaves 0.1, equally distributed between the two tails. We want  $t$  to the right of which the area under the curve is 0.05. From the  $t$  Table,  $\alpha = 0.05$ ,  $df = 98$ , we have:  $t = \pm 1.661$ . Compare this to  $z = \pm 1.645$ .

Should you encounter a situation in which the number of degrees of freedom exceeds the  $df = 100$  limit of the  $t$  distribution table, just use the corresponding  $z$  value for the desired level of confidence.

## Using The $t$ Distribution Table: Example 3



For a sample size of  $n = 31$ , what  $t$  values would correspond to an area centered at  $t = 0$  and having an area beneath the curve of 99%?

$n = 31$ ,  $df = n - 1 = 30$ , and the area under the curve is 0.99. This leaves 0.01, equally distributed between the two tails. We want  $t$  to the right of which the area under the curve is 0.005. From the  $t$  Table,  $\alpha = 0.005$ ,  $df = 30$ , we have  $t = \pm 2.750$ . Compare this to  $z = \pm 2.58$ .

## Using The $t$ Distribution Table: Example 4



For a sample size of  $n = 51$ , what  $t$  values would correspond to an area centered at  $t = 0$  and having an area beneath the curve of 80%?

$n = 51$ ,  $df = n - 1 = 50$ , and the area under the curve is 0.80. This leaves 0.2, equally distributed between the two tails. We want  $t$  to the right of which the area under the curve is 0.1. From the  $t$  Table,  $\alpha = 0.1$ ,  $df = 50$ , we have  $t = \pm 1.299$ . Compare this to  $z = \pm 1.2816$ .

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is unknown, Example 1



A simple random sample of  $n = 90$  manufacturing employees has been selected. The average number of overtime hours worked last week was  $\bar{x} = 8.46$  hours, with a sample standard deviation of  $s = 3.61$  hours. What is the 98% confidence interval for the population mean,  $\mu$ ?

**Answer:** Here  $\sigma$  is unknown, so we use the sample standard deviation  $s$  instead, and this requires using the  $t$  distribution.

$$\alpha = \frac{1-0.98}{2} = 0.01, df = 89, \text{ so } t = \pm 2.369$$

$$\mu \in \left[ \bar{x} \pm t * \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} \right] = \left[ 8.46 \pm 2.369 * \frac{3.61}{\sqrt{90}} \right] = [7.56, 9.36]$$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is unknown, Example 2



A simple random sample of  $n = 105$  manufacturing employees has been selected. The average number of overtime hours worked last week was  $\bar{x} = 8.46$  hours, with a sample standard deviation of  $s = 3.61$  hours. What is the 98% confidence interval for the population mean,  $\mu$ ?

**Answer:**  $\alpha = \frac{1-0.98}{2} = 0.01$ ,  $df = 104$ , so we can use the  $z$  table instead of the  $t$  table. Recall that the  $z$  score associated with 98% confidence interval is  $z = t = \pm 2.33$

$$\mu \in \left[ \bar{x} \pm t * \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} \right] = \left[ 8.46 \pm 2.33 * \frac{3.61}{\sqrt{90}} \right] = [7.57, 9.35]$$



# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is unknown, Example 3



Suppose a random sample from normally distributed student grades yields the following:  $\{70, 78, 74, 98, 74, 72, 60, 100, 90, 94\}$ . Construct and interpret the 90%, 95%, and 99% confidence intervals for the mean:

**Answer:** Here  $n = 10$ , and you can calculate  $\bar{x}$  and  $s$  from the data to verify that  $\bar{x} = 81$ , and  $s = 13.54$ . Since the sample size is too small, we rely on the assumption that the underlying population is normally distributed. For the 90% CI:

$$\alpha = \frac{1-0.90}{2} = 0.05, \quad df = 10 - 1 = 9, \quad \text{so } t = \pm 1.833$$

$$\mu \in \left[ \bar{x} \pm t * \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} \right] = \left[ 81 \pm 1.833 * \frac{13.54}{\sqrt{10}} \right] = [73.15, 88.85]$$

# Estimating Confidence Intervals of the Mean: $\sigma$ is unknown, Example 4



In a sample of 30 current MLB pitchers, the mean age was 28 years with a standard deviation of 4.4 years. Construct a 95% confidence interval to estimate the mean age of all current MLB pitchers.

***Answer:***

$$\alpha = \frac{1-0.95}{2} = 0.025, \text{ } df = 30 - 1 = 29, \text{ so } t = \pm 2.045$$

$$\mu \in \left[ \bar{x} \pm t * \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} \right] = \left[ 28 \pm 2.045 * \frac{4.4}{\sqrt{30}} \right] = [26.36, 29.64]$$

# Sample Size Determination



Recall that

$$\mu \in \left[ \bar{x} \pm z * \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right] \text{ and } p \in \left[ \hat{p} \pm z * \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}\hat{q}}{n}} \right]$$

## Definition

In a confidence interval, the margin of error, or maximum likely sampling error, denoted  $e$ , is defined as:

$$e = z * \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}, \text{ for the population mean } \mu, \text{ and}$$

$$e = z * \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}\hat{q}}{n}}, \text{ for the population proportion } p$$

# Sample Size Determination for the Mean



We can set the margin of error in advance, and choose a sample size which guarantees achieving that margin of error. If we let  $e$  be the margin of error, then:

$$\begin{aligned}e &= z * \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \\ \Rightarrow e^2 &= z^2 * \frac{\sigma^2}{n} \\ \Rightarrow n &= \frac{z^2 * \sigma^2}{e^2}\end{aligned}$$

So, after setting  $e$ , we can use a sample size of  $n = \frac{z^2 * \sigma^2}{e^2}$  to guarantee that the mean will be within the margin of error. If  $\sigma$  is unknown, use  $s$  instead.

# Sample size determination for $\mu$ : Example



Determine the sample size required to estimate the average summer earnings among teenagers with 95% confidence level and a \$50 margin of error. Suppose  $\sigma = \$400$ .

Answer:

$$n = \frac{z^2 * \sigma^2}{e^2}$$
$$\Rightarrow n = \frac{1.96^2 * 400^2}{50^2} \approx 246$$

Notice that we don't know  $\mu$ , nor  $\bar{x}$ , but we are 95% confident that  $\mu \in [\bar{x} \pm \$50]$  as long as  $n = 246$  and  $\sigma = \$400$ .

So, if you find that  $\bar{x} = \$1000$  in a simple random sample of 246 teenagers from this population, you can conclude that  $\mu \in [\$1000 \pm \$50]$

# Sample Size Determination for the Proportion



again, we can set the margin of error in advance, and choose a sample size which guarantees achieving that margin of error. If we let  $e$  be the margin of error, then:

$$\begin{aligned}e &= z * \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}\hat{q}}{n}} \\ \Rightarrow e^2 &= z^2 * \frac{\hat{p}\hat{q}}{n} \\ \Rightarrow n &= \frac{z^2 * \hat{p}\hat{q}}{e^2}\end{aligned}$$

As a conservative strategy, use  $\hat{p} = 0.5$  if you have no idea about the actual value of  $p$ .

So, after setting  $e$ , we can use a sample size of  $n = \frac{z^2 * \hat{p}\hat{q}}{e^2}$  to guarantee that the mean will be within the margin of error.

# Sample Size Determination for the Proportion: Example



Suppose we want to estimate the proportion,  $p$ , of people who vacation in Mexico. What sample size is necessary to be 95% confident that the sample proportion will be within 0.03 (3 percentage points) of the actual population proportion?

Answer:  $z = 1.96$ ,  $e = 0.03$ , and  $\hat{p} = 0.5$  since we don't know  $p$ .  
So,

$$n = \frac{z^2 * \hat{p}\hat{q}}{e^2} = \frac{1.96^2 * 0.5 * 0.5}{0.03^2} \approx 1068$$

# Confidence Intervals when Population is Finite



$$\text{If } = \begin{cases} \sigma \text{ known, infinite population} & \mu \in [\bar{x} \pm z * \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}] \\ \sigma \text{ unknown, infinite population} & \mu \in [\bar{x} \pm t * \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}], df = n - 1 \\ \text{infinite population} & p \in \left[ \hat{p} \pm z * \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}\hat{q}}{n}} \right] \\ \sigma \text{ known, population finite} & \mu \in [\bar{x} \pm z * \left( \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} * \sqrt{\frac{N-n}{N-1}} \right)] \\ \sigma \text{ unknown, population finite} & \mu \in [\bar{x} \pm t * \left( \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} * \sqrt{\frac{N-n}{N-1}} \right)], df = n - 1 \\ \text{population finite} & p \in \left[ \hat{p} \pm z * \left( \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}\hat{q}}{n}} * \sqrt{\frac{N-n}{N-1}} \right) \right] \end{cases}$$



# Confidence Intervals when Population is Finite: Example



The population of Hinsdale County, is 838 persons. Assume a researcher has interviewed a simple random sample of 400 persons and found that their average number of years of formal education is  $\bar{x} = 11.5$  years, with a standard deviation of  $s = 4.3$  years. Construct a 95% CI for the population mean.

Answer: Notice that the sample size is large relative to the population,  $n > 0.05 * N$ .  $\alpha = \frac{1-0.95}{2} = 0.025$ ,  $df = 400 - 1 = 399$ , so use the  $z$  score associated with 95% CI:  $z = \pm 1.96$ .

$$\mu \in \left[ \bar{x} \pm z * \left( \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} * \sqrt{\frac{N-n}{N-1}} \right) \right]$$

$$\mu \in \left[ 11.5 \pm 1.96 * \left( \frac{4.3}{\sqrt{400}} * \sqrt{\frac{838-400}{838-1}} \right) \right] = [11.195, 11.805]$$