

Confidence intervals

Interval estimators are commonly called confidence intervals.

Given the sample, we obtain $[\hat{\theta}_L, \hat{\theta}_U]$

The probability that a confidence interval will enclose θ is called the confidence coefficient

$$P(\hat{\theta}_L \leq \theta \leq \hat{\theta}_U) = 1 - \alpha$$

We want to choose confidence intervals:

- large enough so that the confidence coefficient is $1 - \alpha$
(we want to make sure that the confidence interval contains the parameter)

- * narrow enough to make accurate predictions

A lower one-sided confidence interval of θ is $[\hat{\theta}_L, \infty)$

An upper one-sided confidence interval of θ is $(-\infty, \hat{\theta}_U]$

A method for finding confidence intervals is the pivotal method

A pivotal quantity is a function of the data and the target parameter whose distribution does not depend on θ .

Confidence interval for the normal n.v.s

Given $0 < \alpha < 1$, z_α is the solution of $P(Z \geq z_\alpha) = \alpha$

We will use that $P(-z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \leq Z \leq z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}}) = 1 - \alpha$

Given a random sample $Y_1, \dots, Y_n$ from a normal distribution we would like to estimate μ and σ^2

Confidence intervals of μ , assuming σ^2 is known

(1) $[\bar{Y} - \frac{\sigma z_\alpha}{\sqrt{n}}, \infty)$ is a $1 - \alpha$ lower-one side confidence interval for μ

(2) $(-\infty, \bar{Y} + \frac{\sigma z_\alpha}{\sqrt{n}}]$ is a $1 - \alpha$ upper-one side confidence interval for μ

(3) $[\bar{Y} - \frac{\sigma z_{\alpha/2}}{\sqrt{n}}, \bar{Y} + \frac{\sigma z_{\alpha/2}}{\sqrt{n}}]$ is a $1 - \alpha$ confidence interval for μ

$$(1) P(\bar{Y} - \frac{\sigma z_\alpha}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \mu) = P(\sqrt{n} \frac{(\bar{Y} - \mu)}{\sigma} \leq z_\alpha) = 1 - \alpha$$

$$(2) P(\bar{Y} + \frac{\sigma z_\alpha}{\sqrt{n}} \geq \mu) = P(\sqrt{n} \frac{(\bar{Y} - \mu)}{\sigma} \geq -z_\alpha) = 1 - \alpha$$

$$(3) P(\bar{Y} - \frac{\sigma z_{\alpha/2}}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \mu \leq \bar{Y} + \frac{\sigma z_{\alpha/2}}{\sqrt{n}}) = P(-z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \leq \sqrt{n} \frac{(\bar{Y} - \mu)}{\sigma} \leq z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}}) = 1 - \alpha$$

Exercise

Let Y equal the amount of orange juice (in grams per day) consumed by an American. Suppose that it is known that the standard deviation of Y is $\sigma = 96$. To estimate the mean μ of Y an orange growers' association took a random sample of $n = 576$ Americans and found that they consumed, on the average $\bar{y} = 133$ grams of orange juice per day. Find a 90% confidence interval for μ .

$$\bar{y} \pm \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \quad , \quad \bar{y} = 133, \sigma = 96, n = 576 \quad z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}} = z_{0.05} = 1.645$$

A 90% confidence interval for μ is

$$133 \pm (1.645) \frac{(96)}{\sqrt{576}} = 133 \pm 6.58 = [126.42, 139.58]$$

Exercise

A random sample of size 8 from $N(\mu, \sigma^2 = 72)$, yielded $\bar{y} = 85$.
Find the following confidence intervals for μ

- (a) 99% (b) 95% (c) 90% (d) 80%

$$(a) \bar{y} \pm z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} = 85 \pm (2.575) \frac{\sqrt{72}}{\sqrt{8}} = 85 \pm 7.725$$

$$= [77.275, 92.725]$$

$$(b) \bar{y} \pm z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} = 85 \pm (1.96) \frac{\sqrt{72}}{\sqrt{8}} = 85 \pm 5.88$$

$$[79.12, 90.88]$$

$$(c) \bar{y} \pm z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} = 85 \pm (1.645) \frac{\sqrt{72}}{\sqrt{8}} = 85 \pm 4.935$$

$$[80.065, 89.935]$$

$$(d) \bar{y} \pm z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} = 85 \pm (1.282) \frac{\sqrt{72}}{\sqrt{8}} = 85 \pm 3.846$$

$$[81.154, 88.846]$$