ISE 315: Engineering Statistics

Lecture 7: Practice on Confidence Intervals

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Based on Montgomery & Runger, Applied Statistics and Probability for Engineers, 6th Ed.

Lecture 7

Practice on Confidence Intervals

Lecture 7 Outline

- Quick review of confidence interval formulas
- Practice problems on confidence intervals
- Q & A on homework or quizzes

Quick Review: Confidence Interval Formulas

Textbook Chapter 3

Parameter	Two-Sided CI Formula	When to Use
Mean μ (σ known)	$\bar{x} \pm z_{\alpha/2} \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$ (3.1)	σ is given/historical
Mean μ (σ unknown)	$\bar{x} \pm t_{\alpha/2,n-1} \cdot \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}$ (3.5)	Only sample std dev s
Variance σ^2	$\left[\frac{(n-1)s^2}{\chi^2_{\alpha/2,n-1}}, \frac{(n-1)s^2}{\chi^2_{1-\alpha/2,n-1}}\right]$ (3.6)	Need CI for spread
Proportion p	$\hat{p} \pm z_{\alpha/2} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}}$ (3.7)	$n\hat{p} \geq 10,\ n(1-\hat{p}) \geq 10$

Textbook: Chapter 3 practice ((3.1)–(3.8)); choosing among them is Procedure 3.5

Quick Review: Critical Values

Z Critical Values (for σ known or proportion):

Confidence	Two-sided		One-sided	
Level	$\alpha/2$	$z_{\alpha/2}$	α	z_α
90%	0.05	1.645	0.10	1.282
95%	0.025	1.960	0.05	1.645
99%	0.005	2.576	0.01	2.326

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95%	0.025	1.960	0.05	1.645
99%	0.005	2.576	0.01	2.326

T and Chi-Square: Use Table 3.3 and Table 3.4 with $\text{df} = n - 1$

A fleet analyst measures fuel used per delivery route. A random sample of $n = 64$ routes yields $\bar{x} = 120$ liters. The population standard deviation is known to be $\sigma = 16$ liters. Construct a 95% CI for the true mean fuel use.

Problem 1: CI for Mean (σ known)

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Given: $n = 64$, $\bar{x} = 120$ liters, $\sigma = 16$ liters, 95% confidence

Problem 1: Solution

- **Step 1: Standard Error**

$$SE = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} = \frac{16}{\sqrt{64}} = \frac{16}{8} = 2$$

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- **Step 3: Margin of Error** (3.3)

$$E = z_{\alpha/2} \times SE = 1.96 \times 2 = 3.92$$

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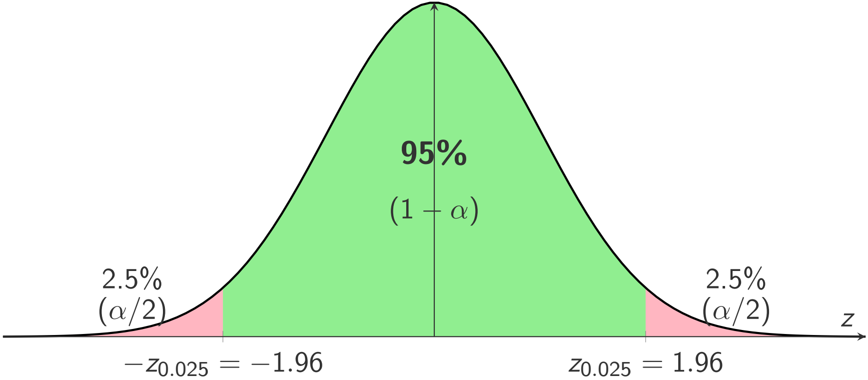
- **Step 4: Confidence Interval** (3.1)

$$\bar{x} \pm E = 120 \pm 3.92 = \boxed{(116.08, 123.92) \text{ liters}}$$

Problem 1: Illustration – Standard Normal Distribution



$Z \sim N(0,1)$ — CI (3.1):

$$\bar{x} \pm z_{\alpha/2} \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} = 120 \pm 1.96 \times 2 = (116.08, 123.92)$$

An AI safety team runs an LLM benchmark suite $n = 16$ times. The runs yield mean eval score $\bar{x} = 85$ points and sample standard deviation $s = 20$ points. Construct a 95% CI for the true mean eval score.

Problem 2: CI for Mean (σ unknown)

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What are we given?

Given: $n = 16$, $\bar{x} = 85$ points, $s = 20$ points, 95% confidence

Problem 2: Solution

- **Step 1: Standard Error** (using s instead of σ)

$$SE = \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} = \frac{20}{\sqrt{16}} = \frac{20}{4} = 5$$

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- **Step 2: Critical Value** (t-distribution with df $= n - 1 = 15$, Table 3.3)

$$t_{\alpha/2,n-1} = t_{0.025,15} = 2.131$$

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$$E = t_{\alpha/2,n-1} \times SE = 2.131 \times 5 = 10.655$$

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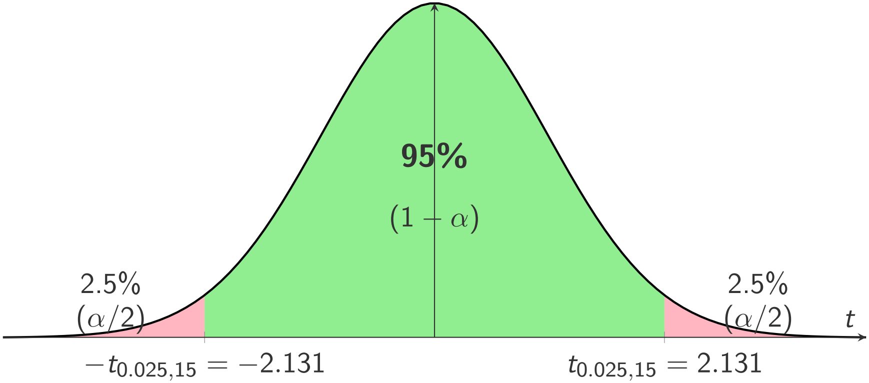
- **Step 4: Confidence Interval** (3.5)

$$\bar{x} \pm E = 85 \pm 10.655 = \boxed{(74.35, 95.66) \text{ points}}$$

Problem 2: Illustration – t-Distribution ($df = 15$)



t_{15} distribution — CI (3.5):

$$\bar{x} \pm t_{\alpha/2,n-1} \cdot \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} = 85 \pm 2.131 \times 5 = (74.35, 95.66)$$

Your startup runs a landing-page experiment. Out of $n = 400$ visitors, 60 signed up for the free trial. Construct a 95% CI for the true signup conversion rate.

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Given: $n = 400$, $x = 60$ signups, 95% confidence

Problem 3: Solution

- **Step 1: Calc Proportion and Check ($n\hat{p} \geq 10$ ✓, $n(1-\hat{p}) \geq 10$ ✓) $\rightarrow z$**

$$\hat{p} = \frac{x}{n} = \frac{60}{400} = 0.15$$

Problem 3: Solution

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- **Step 2: Standard Error**

$$SE = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}} = \sqrt{\frac{0.15 \times 0.85}{400}} = \sqrt{0.000319} = 0.0179$$

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- **Step 3: Margin of Error** $(z_{0.025} = 1.96)$

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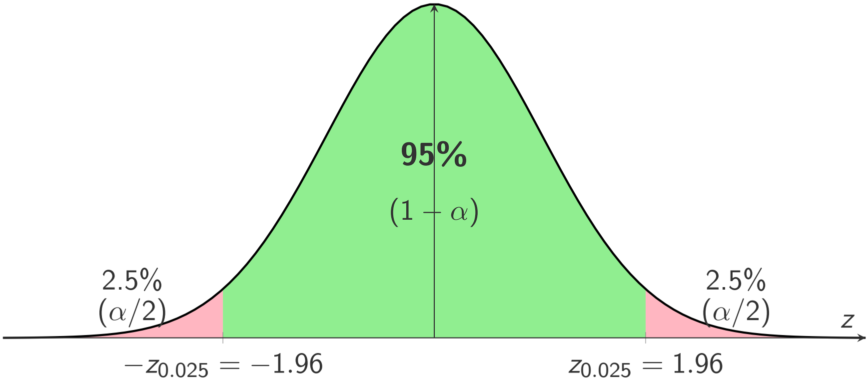
- **Step 4: Confidence Interval** (3.7)

$$\hat{p} \pm E = 0.15 \pm 0.035 = \boxed{(0.115, 0.185) \text{ or } (11.5\%, 18.5\%)}$$



$$Z \sim N(0,1) \quad — \quad \text{CI (3.7):}$$

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A warehouse manager studies the consistency of order picking times. A sample of $n = 20$ picks yields sample variance $s^2 = 144\ \mathrm{s}^2$. Construct a 95% CI for the true variance σ^2.

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Given: $n = 20$, $s^2 = 144\ \mathrm{s}^2$, 95% confidence

Problem 4: Solution

- **Step 1: Degrees of Freedom**

$$df = n - 1 = 19$$

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$$\chi^2_{0.025,19} = 32.852 \quad \text{and} \quad \chi^2_{0.975,19} = 8.907$$

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- **Step 4: Confidence Interval for σ^2 (3.6)**

$$\left[\frac{(n-1)s^2}{\chi^2_{\alpha/2}}, \frac{(n-1)s^2}{\chi^2_{1-\alpha/2}}\right] = \left[\frac{2736}{32.852}, \frac{2736}{8.907}\right] = \boxed{(83.27, 307.18)\ \text{s}^2}$$

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An AI red team wants to estimate the mean guardrail response latency. From past experience, $\sigma = 8$ ms. How large a sample is needed so the error is within 2 ms with 95% confidence?

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Problem 5: Sample Size Determination

What are we given?

Given: $\sigma = 8$ ms, desired $E = 2$ ms, 95% confidence

- **Recall:** Margin of error formula (3.3)

$$E = z_{\alpha/2} \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$

Problem 5: Solution

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- **Solve for** n (3.4): $n = \left(\frac{z_{\alpha/2} \cdot \sigma}{E}\right)^2$

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- **Solve for** n (3.4): $n = \left(\frac{z_{\alpha/2} \cdot \sigma}{E}\right)^2$
- **Substitute values:** $(z_{0.025} = 1.96)$

$$n = \left(\frac{1.96 \times 8}{2}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{15.68}{2}\right)^2 = (7.84)^2 = 61.47$$

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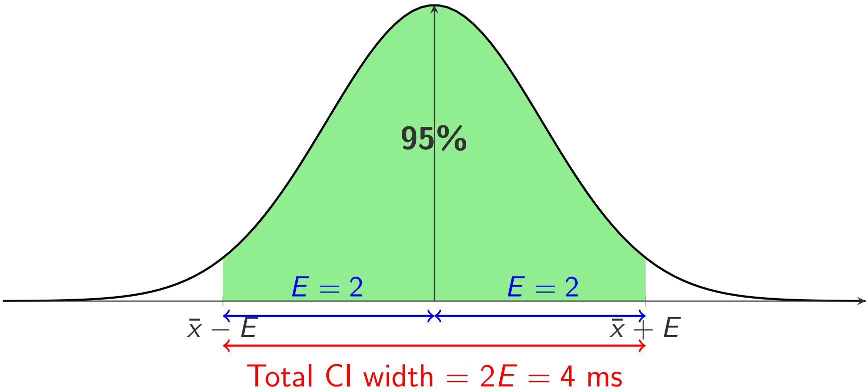
- **Round UP:** (always round up for sample size!)

$$n = \boxed{\text{62 samples}}$$

Problem 5: Illustration – Margin of Error and Sample Size



(3.4): $n = \left(\frac{z_{\alpha/2} \cdot \sigma}{E}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{1.96 \times 8}{2}\right)^2 = 61.47 \to \boxed{62}$ (round UP!)

Your startup tracks support-ticket resolution time. A sample of $n = 25$ tickets gives $\bar{x} = 2.4$ hours and $s = 0.5$ hours. Find a 95% **upper confidence bound** on the true mean resolution time.

Problem 6: One-Sided Bound (if time permits)

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Given: $n = 25$, $\bar{x} = 2.4$ hours, $s = 0.5$ hours, 95% upper bound

- **Step 1: Standard Error**

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- **Step 2: Critical Value** (one-sided, df = 24, Table 3.3)

$$t_{\alpha,n-1} = t_{0.05,24} = 1.711$$

Problem 6: Solution

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$$t_{\alpha,n-1} = t_{0.05,24} = 1.711$$

- **Step 3: Upper Confidence Bound** (one-sided form of (3.5))

$$\mu \leq \bar{x} + t_\alpha \cdot SE = 2.4 + 1.711 \times 0.1 = 2.4 + 0.171 = \boxed{2.571 \text{ hours}}$$

Problem 6: Solution

- **Step 1: Standard Error**

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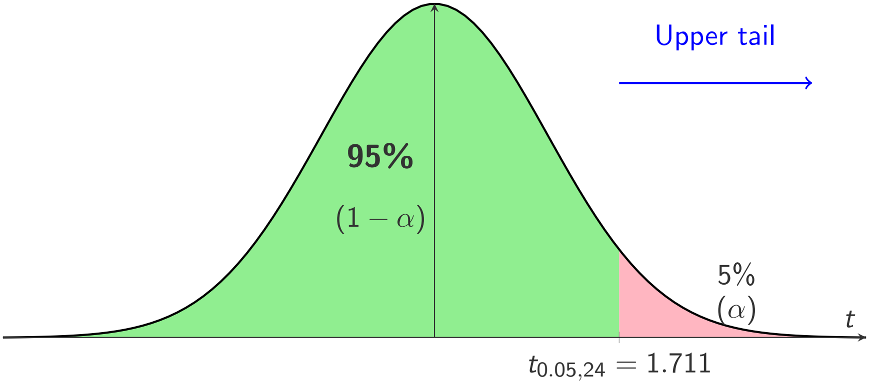
$$\mu \leq \bar{x} + t_\alpha \cdot SE = 2.4 + 1.711 \times 0.1 = 2.4 + 0.171 = \boxed{2.571 \text{ hours}}$$

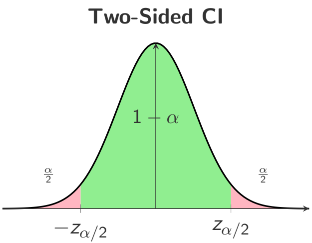
Interpretation: We are 95% confident that the true mean resolution time is **at most** 2.571 hours.

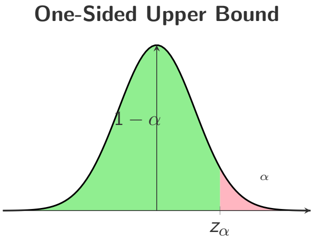
Problem 6: Illustration – One-Sided Upper Bound (t-distribution)



Upper bound: $\mu \leq \bar{x} + t_\alpha \cdot SE = 2.4 + 1.711 \times 0.1 = 2.571$ hours

Comparison: Two-Sided vs One-Sided Confidence Intervals





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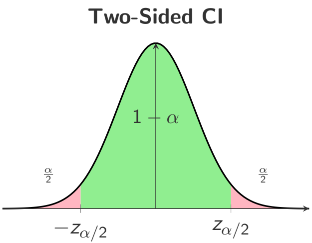

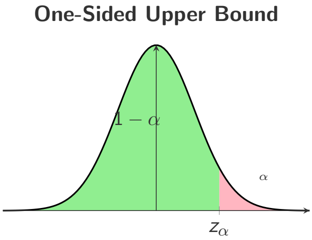

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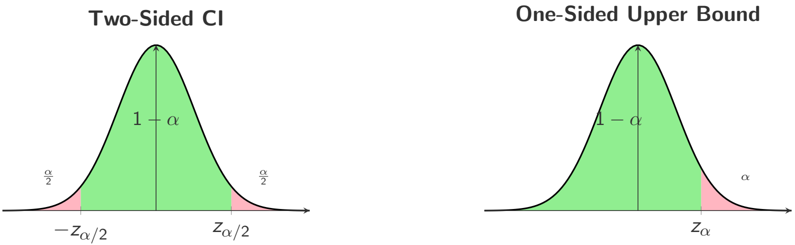

- **Two-sided:** Use $z_{\alpha/2}$ or $t_{\alpha/2}$ (split α into both tails)
- **One-sided:** Use z_{α} or t_{α} (all α in one tail, (3.2))

Quick Decision Guide: Which CI Formula? (Procedure 3.5)

- **What parameter are you estimating?**

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  - Variance σ^2 $\Rightarrow$ χ^2**-distribution** (use $\chi^2_{\alpha/2,n-1}$ and $\chi^2_{1-\alpha/2,n-1}$, (3.6))

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