



What Does A 95% Confidence Interval Mean?

Ha Khanh Nguyen (hknguyen)

X = the amount of coffee a U of I student drinks per day

μ = the true average amount of coffee a U of I student drinks per day

\bar{x} = sample average for a particular sample

z-CI: $\bar{x} \pm z_{\alpha/2} \cdot \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$

t-CI: $\bar{x} \pm t_{\alpha/2} \cdot \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}$
df = n - 1

\bar{x} is always the midpoint of CI

A 95% confidence interval for μ : (8.4, 10.2) oz

What does confidence level of 95% mean?

μ : unknown, constant

~~1~~ There is a 95% probability that the population mean is between 8.4 oz and 10.2 oz.

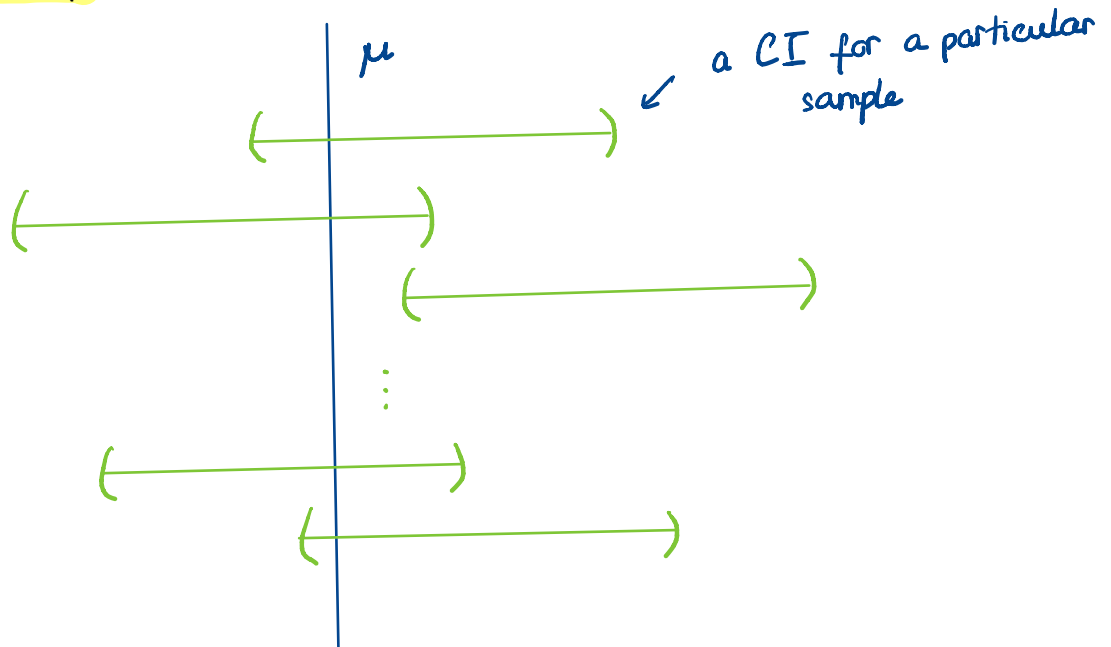
~~2~~ There is a ^{100%} 95% probability that the sample mean \bar{x} is between 8.4 oz and 10.2 oz.

~~3~~ 95% of the population data are between 8.4 oz and 10.2 oz. $P(8.4 \leq X \leq 10.2) = 0.95$

~~4~~ 95% of the sample data are between 8.4 oz and 10.2 oz.

~~5~~ If we take many samples of the same size and each compute a 95% CI for μ , about 95% of the sample means would be between 8.4 oz and 10.2 oz. $P(8.4 \leq \bar{X} \leq 10.2) = 0.95$

✓ 6 If we take many samples of the same size and each compute a 95% CI for μ , about 95% of the CIs will contain the true mean μ .



NOTE: When can we calculate CI for p?

When $n\hat{p} \geq 5$ and $n(1-\hat{p}) \geq 5$!