

FEDERAL FARM BOARD

WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 15, 1930

Dr. R. A. Fisher,
Rothamsted Experiment Station,
Harpenden, Herts, England

Dear Doctor Fisher:

I appreciate your prompt reply, explaining the exact meaning of the symbols you had used in your article on the general sampling distribution of the multiple correlation coefficient. Following out your suggestions, I have computed through the probable minimum value of the correlation coefficient for a series of values of n' and of the observed correlation. I have managed to work out calculating charts which show these results in very concise form and yet which can be read accurately to the second decimal place. Enclosed is a copy of the chart for simple correlation. How do you like this method of presentation?

I am preparing a text book on methods of correlation analysis, which is to be devoted to the consideration of the methods of computing linear and multiple regression equations and coefficients, to the determination of curvilinear regressions both in simple and in multiple correlation, and to the meaning and significance of the results obtained. In connection with that I am presenting a discussion of the reliability of correlation results, and wanted that to include the most authoritative information available on that subject. For that reason I have based my statement on the material in the article which you sent me, interpreting your conclusions so that they would be more readily available for non-mathematical students.

Enclosed is a copy of the chapter of the manuscript which goes into the discussion of this phase of the subject. I would like to ask your opinion as to whether this is a fair statement of the methods which you have developed for judging the reliability of correlation results, and also to ask whether the way in which I have given credit for your material is satisfactory to you. I am particularly interested in including this material in the book as I feel that American statisticians have been much too prone to neglect the new methods of appraising the significance of conclusions which you and "Student" developed. Even though this book is devoted principally to correlation analysis and covers only that phase of the subject, I wanted the material which it included to represent the best methods which have been developed in the field.

Appreciating your assistance and hoping that I am not taking too much of your time in asking you to review this portion of the manuscript for me, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mordecai Ezekiel.

P.S. I delayed sending this off until I could enclose copies of all four charts.