

ROTHAMSTED EXPERIMENTAL STATION
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My dear Ron,

I have now completed the second reading of your Chapter V which I return herewith.

system There is plenty of strong meat in the chapter but I don't find myself in any disagreement with it. Indeed, I particularly liked your suggestion in the first section that a purely deductive ~~estimate~~ has in fact ~~some~~ ^{the same} logical status as a scientific theory.

The only points I have are minor ones. On p.1 I think "however" should be "moreover". On p.4 I find "it" confusing on first reading. I suppose "inferences" is implied but the immediately previous mention of inferences was in the plural. On p.6 I think it would help the reader if you told him at the outset that the a priori distribution assumed is a uniform one. Also some indication that this is not considered a sound line of argument in reality might be useful to those dipping casually into the book. I have in mind that there can be situations in which an a priori distribution of probabilities is valuable but this is scarcely ever uniform.

On p.9 and again on p.11 you mention that a fiducial probability statement about future observations is verifiable by subsequent observations to any degree of precision required. I think it might be worth warning the reader that a fiducial probability statement concerning, say, a single future observation will not give the actual distribution of a ^{single} ~~set~~ of future observations when the statement is based on a single sample.

On p.25 at the top I think the manuscript insertion is misplaced.

With regard to the table of x^x , I think the present range is probably adequate for the book which is likely in any case to have a smaller page than our tables. If we think it worth while to include such a table in the next edition then it can easily be extended to 150.

Sorry I have kept this chapter so long. At your convenience I should now like to see the next one.

Yours,

J. W. L.

Professor Sir Ronald Fisher