

Statistical Terms: Who Coined Them, and When?

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I am always statistics-happy to stumble on a statistical factoid, e.g., who first used the term “degrees of freedom,” “P-value,” and even the word “statistics.” The purpose of this article is to list statistical terms that I find irresistible in knowing who coined them and when.

- Additivity (in ANOVA) – Eisenhart, C. (1947)
- Biased (errors) – Bowley, A. L. (1897)
- Bonferroni inequalities – Feller, W. (1950)
- Chi-squared – Pearson, K. (1900)
- Cluster analysis – Tryon, R. C. (1939)
- Coefficient of correlation – Pearson, K. (1896)
- Correlated – Galton, F. (1875)
- Correlation – Galton, F. (1888)
- Correlation, multiple - Pearson, K (1888)
- Correlation Coefficient – Pearson, K (1896)
- Decile – Galton, F. (1882)
- Decile table, optimization of – Ratner, B. (1994)
- Degrees of freedom – Fisher, R. A. (1922)
- Dispersion, measure of – Bowley, A. L. (1907)
- Estimator – Pitman, E.J. G. – (1938)
- Goodness-of-fit – Pearson, K. (1900)
- Imputation, genetic – Ratner, B. (1994)
- Jackknife – Miller, R. G. (1964)
- Level of Significance – Fisher, R. A. (1925)
- Logistic – Verhulst, P. E., (1845)
- Logit – Berkson, J. (1944)
- Method of least squares – Legendre, A. M. (1805)
- Mode – Pearson, K. (1895)
- Multiple correlation – Pearson, K. (1908)
- Multiple correlation coefficient – Pearson, K. (1914)
- Nonparametric – Wolfowitz, J. (1942)
- Normal distribution – Galton, F. (1889)
- Normal score – Fisher, R. A., and Yule, F. (1938)
- P-value – Brownlee, K. A. (1960)
- Probit – Bliss, C. I. (1934)
- Quantile – Kendall, M. G. (1940)
- Quartile – Galton, F. (1882)
- Range – Lloyd, H. (1848)
- Regression – Galton, F. (1885)

- Standard Deviation – Pearson, K. (1894)
- Standard Error – Yule, G. U. (1897)
- Statistic – Fisher, R. A. (1922)
- Statistics – Hooper, W. (1770) Found in Bielfeld’s Elem. Universal Educ. III xiii 269. “The science, that is called *statistics*, teaches us what is the political arrangement of all the modern states of the know world.”
- Unbiased (error) – Bowley, A. L. (1897)
- Uniform distribution – Uspensky, J. V. (1937)
- Unimodal – de Helguero, F. (1904)
- Variance – Fisher, R. A. (1918)

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