Readings for Class of September 29, 2016

Please accept my apology for getting this to you a little late. Fortunately, the one reading on William S. Gosset is rather short (you should be able to complete it in a few minutes). The second piece is a copy of the original paper that Gosset wrote under his new pseudonym that presented the solution to the problem of estimating the standard error of a population from a small sample. This was a problem that was driving Pearson nuts since he was accustomed to using large samples in his work on eugenics and he could not lick it, himself. Gosset supplied the answer! Today we know it as the t distribution. The paper itself is rather written rather technically and the math gets pretty complex. You can try to read it, yourself, but if you can’t just consider it an interesting piece of history.

We will begin our meeting by finishing up our analysis on Pearson’s paper of Jewish students in a London school since it leads directly to Gosset’s solution of the small sample question. We had a fine discussion last week, so please come prepared to keep up the effort!

LBB