Eponyms in Statistics

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Abstract

There are several eponyms used in statistics. This report comments on some of them.

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Many of the terms used in statistics are descriptive and they are derived from Latin or Greek. However, there are other types of nomenclature used.

Eponym is a name derived from the name of a person. As in other field of sciences, there are several eponyms in statistics literature. Some of these eponyms are old and some of them new. Some are no longer used while others are still in use. They are originated from different parts of the world.

Many statisticians have no information about the history of eponyms.

In this communication, I meant to shed some light on selected examples of eponyms in statistics (Table. 1^{1-6}).

Table.1: Selected examples of eponyms in Statistics

Eponyms in Statistics	Remarks
Bayesian meta-analysis [1].	This is one method of meta-analysis which is a statistical technique to combine results from multiple independent studies. In this method , both data and model parameters are Considered to be random quantities. The likelihood function is thought of as defining the plausibility of the data given Values of the model parameters. It is named for, Thomas Bayes (1701 –1761) who was an English mathematician.
Fisher's exact test[2,3].	It is a statistical significance test used in the analysis of contingency tables. It is named for Sir Ronald Aylmer Fisher (1890 – 1962), who was an English statistician, eugenicist and founder of the neo-Darwinian synthesis .The analysis of variance (ANOVA), is one his important contributions to statistics.
Gaussian distribution[4].	This is another name for what is commonly known currently as the normal distribution .In probability theory, this is a very commonly occurring continuous probability distribution—a function that tells the probability that an observation in some context will fall between any two real numbers. Named after, a German mathematician and physical scientist, Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777 – 1855), who introduced the distribution in 1809.
Simpson's paradox[5].	Also known as, the Yule–Simpson effect. It is a paradox in which a trend that appears in different groups of data disappears when these groups are combined, and the reverse trend appears for the aggregate data. Edward Hugh Simpson (born 1922) is a British statistician .
Wald distribution[6].	This name for; the inverse Gaussian distribution. In probability theory, this is a two-parameter family of continuous probability distributions with support on $(0,\infty)$. It is named for, Abraham Wald (1902 –1950), who was a mathematician born in Cluj, Romania. He founded the field of statistical sequential analysis.

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