

# Animal Breeding Research Department

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PLEASE ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY.

Dear Dr. Fisher,

As you say it certainly is complex and you have given us considerable food for thought. Please pardon my ignorance when I say that I do not quite understand your method of finding the sum of squares of differences between a group of cows. If you can tell me what S and X respectively, stand for, I would be very much obliged. *Would it not be sufficient for the purpose of discovering whether or not there existed any sex linkage if figures were extracted by the method you suggest in your letter only for four groups, two where the dams are not sisters and where the sire is paternal half-brother and maternal half-brother respectively for each group, and two where the sire is not a brother and the dams are respectively paternal half-sister and maternal half-sister. This would simplify the work considerably; at present it is rather appalling.*

I note your P.S. about the correction factor business. I am afraid that we make very poor disciples of the cult of statistics.

Yours sincerely,

*A. D. Buchanan Smith*

Dr. R.A. Fisher,  
Rothamsted,  
Harpenden,  
HERTS.