

7th January 1934<sup>5</sup>

Dear Professor Fréchet,

[CP 63]

In respect to the term 'limiting form', I should have explained that I mean the limiting distributing, after making abstraction of the two sample characteristics, namely the position, <sup>and</sup> of the scale of the distribution, which of course may differ <sup>among</sup> from distributions having the same form. It is in that sense that I shew that all limiting distributions of the greatest or least of samples from homogeneous material <sup>are</sup> of the three kinds given in my paper.

This will perhaps explain why I use the linear transformations  $A_n^x + B_n$ , which leaves the form of the distribution unchanged.

I <sup>agree</sup> argue that Laplace recognises that the hypothesis discussed might have different probabilities <sup>a</sup> in priori, but he certainly accepted the doctrine of insufficient reason as a basis for judging that such probabilities were equal and does not face the inconsistencies to which this doctrine leads, owing to the fact that any one hypothesis may be sub-divided arbitrarily into many by irrelevant distinctions, and that we have no criterion by which to judge, whether any particular state of <sup>class</sup>

distinctions are relevant or not.

It is always a pleasure to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

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