
Statistics Links

Karl Pearson (1857–1936) was an English mathematician. He is known as a major contributor to the early development of statistics, and founder of the world's first university statistics department at University College London in 1911. He was also an ardent and controversial proponent of eugenics. Among his famous contributions are the histogram, the correlation coefficient (which was first conceived by Francis Galton), the chi distance, the p -value, the principal component analysis, and the chi-square test which is named after him.



Karl Pearson

Pearson graduated from Cambridge University in 1879. He then travelled to Germany and studied physics at University of Heidelberg. He also attended lectures on Darwinism at the University of Berlin before going to London to work for University College.

Pearson became interested in developing mathematical methods for studying heredity and evolution through Galton (who developed the concept of eugenics) and Walter Weldon (1860–1906).