Note on the Moments of the Transformed Correlation

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Let r be the correlation coefficient in the sample of size n taken out of the bivariate normal population with the parent correlation ρ . R.A. Fisher*2 has pointed out that the correlation may be transformed by the formulae,

$$z = \frac{1}{2}\log\frac{1+r}{1-r}, \qquad \zeta = \frac{1}{2}\log\frac{1+\rho}{1-\rho},$$

with some advantages, and has given the sampling moments for x, putting $z = \zeta + x$. But we are doubtful of some of his formulae for the sampling moments. Therefore, in the following we shall give the results of our calculation for these.

$$\begin{split} &\mu_{1}' = \frac{\rho}{2(n-1)} \left\{ 1 + \frac{5+\rho^{3}}{4(n-1)} + \cdots \right\}, \\ &\mu_{2}' = \frac{1}{n-1} \left\{ 1 + \frac{8-\rho^{2}}{4(n-1)} + \frac{88-9\rho^{2}-9\rho^{4}}{24(n-1)^{2}} + \cdots \right\}, \\ &\mu_{3}' = \frac{3\rho}{2(n-1)^{2}} \left\{ 1 + \frac{13+2\rho^{2}}{4(n-1)} + \cdots \right\}, \\ &\mu_{4}' = \frac{3}{(n-1)^{2}} \left\{ 1 + \frac{28-3\rho^{2}}{6(n-1)} + \frac{736-84\rho^{2}-51\rho^{4}}{48(n-1)^{2}} + \cdots \right\}; \\ &\mu_{2} = \frac{1}{n-1} \left\{ 1 + \frac{4-\rho^{2}}{2(n-1)} + \frac{22-6\rho^{2}-3\rho^{4}}{6(n-1)^{2}} + \cdots \right\}, \\ &\mu_{3} = \frac{\rho^{3}}{(n-1)^{3}} + \cdots , \\ &\mu_{4} = \frac{3}{(n-1)^{2}} \left\{ 1 + \frac{14-3\rho^{2}}{3(n-1)} + \frac{184-48\rho^{2}-21\rho^{4}}{12(n-1)^{2}} + \cdots \right\}; \\ &\beta_{1} = \frac{\rho^{8}}{(n-1)^{3}} + \cdots , \\ &\beta_{2} = 3 + \frac{2}{n-1} + \frac{4+2\rho^{2}-3\rho^{4}}{(n-1)^{2}} + \cdots . \end{split}$$

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REFERENCE

R. A. Fisher: On the "probable error" of a coefficient of correlation deduced from a small sample. Metron 1 (1921).