

27 [8].—S. JOHN, *Critical Values for Inference about Normal Dispersion*, The Australian National University, Canberra. Ms. of 17 computer sheets deposited in the UMT file.

If $f_N(\cdot)$ represents the density function of χ_N^2 , this table consists of values of C_1 and C_2 to 3D (generally 5 or 6S) satisfying the twin conditions $\Pr(C_1 \leq \chi_N^2 \leq C_2) = 1 - \alpha$ and $f_{N+2}(C_1) = f_{N+2}(C_2)$ for $\alpha = 0.2, 0.1, 0.05, 0.01, 0.005, 0.001$, and $N = 1(1)350$. The conditions $\Pr(C_1 \leq \chi_N^2 \leq C_2) = 1 - \alpha$, $E(\chi_N^2 | C_1 \leq \chi_N^2 \leq C_2) = N$ are jointly equivalent to the previous pair.

The values of C_1 and C_2 are required for two-sided tests of normal dispersion. An example of a problem that can be brought to a two-sided test of normal dispersion by a transformation is that of testing whether the counts of two or more organisms in soil samples of given volume have independent Poisson distributions.

The method used in calculating the tables, together with an account of previous tables of this type, is presented in a paper [1] by the author.

AUTHOR'S SUMMARY

1. S. JOHN, "Critical values for inference about normal dispersion," *Austral. J. Statist.*, v. 15, 1973, pp. 71–79.

28 [12].—GRANNINO A. KORN, *Minicomputers for Engineers and Scientists*, McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1973, New York, xiv + 303 pp., 24 cm. Price \$17.75.

The book is a fair to good compilation of currently available minicomputer handbook literature. The book is well formatted and reasonably well written.

The text has tutorial value, but could be misleading as a design reference, if the criterion of novelty is applied. That is, the book's content is extracted mostly from manufacturers' manuals that are recurrently updated to keep abreast of the latest products. Thus, the book's usefulness and longevity as a classroom text are doubtful, since the transience and innovativeness of the minicomputer doom the book to prompt obsolescence.

This reviewer finds it difficult to justify the cost of the book, \$17.75, since the same information can be obtained gratuitously from manufacturer's handbooks.

V. PRESTIANNI

Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences
New York University
251 Mercer Street
New York, New York 10012