

First-year Statistics for Psychology Students
through Worked Examples

3. Analysis of Variance

Charles McCreery, D.Phil.

Formerly Lecturer in Experimental Psychology
Magdalen College
Oxford



Oxford Forum

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Any remaining errors or omissions are my responsibility. I would be pleased to receive information from anyone who spots any error, mathematical or otherwise. I can be contacted via e-mail at:

charles.mccreery@oxford-forum.org

I should also be pleased to hear from anyone who finds this tutorial helpful, either for themselves or for their students.

Charles McCreery, Oxford, 2017

General Introduction¹

There are usually three complementary methods for mastering any new intellectual or artistic task; these are, in ascending order of importance:

- reading books about it
- observing how other people do it
- actually doing it oneself

These tutorials focus on the second of these methods. They are based on handouts that I developed when teaching first-year psychology students at Magdalen College, Oxford. The core of each tutorial is a worked example from an Oxford University Prelims Statistics examination paper. I have therefore placed this section in prime position; however, in teaching the order of events was different, and more nearly corresponded to the three-fold hierarchy of methods given above:

1. Students were invited to read one of the chapters on the Recommended Reading list, given at the end of each tutorial. They were also expected to attend a lecture on the topic in question at the Department of Experimental Psychology.
2. Students would attend a tutorial, in which we would go through the worked example shown here. They would take away the handouts printed as Appendices at the end of each chapter, which were designed to give structure to the topic and help them when doing an example on their own.
3. They would be given another previous examination question to take away and do in their own time, which would be handed in later for marking.

I am strongly in favour of detailed worked examples; following one is the next best thing to attempting a question oneself. Even better than either method is doing a statistical test on data which one has collected oneself, and which therefore has some personal significance to one, but that is not usually practicable in a first-year course.

¹ This is a general introduction to a series of three tutorials available here: <http://www.celiagreen.com/charlesmccreery.html>

I list three books in the General Bibliography at the end of this tutorial which give worked examples. One of these is Spiegel (1992), in which each chapter has numerous ‘solved problems’ on the topic in question. These worked problems occupy more than half of each chapter. However, the solutions to the individual problems are not as detailed and discursive as the ones I give here.

Another book which is based on worked examples on each of the topics covered is Greene and D’Oliveira (1982), also listed in the General Bibliography. Their examples are as detailed as those I give here. However, they do not cover probability and Bayes’ theorem or Analysis of Variance.

Finally, I strongly recommend the *Introductory Statistics Guide* by Marija Norusis, designed to accompany the statistical package *SPSS-X*, and based on worked examples throughout. Even if the student does not have access to a computer with the *SPSS-X* package on it, this instruction manual contains excellent expositions of all the basic statistical concepts dealt with in my own examples.

Analysis of Variance

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1. Introduction

1.1 Concerning the Appendices

In this worked example of a two-way ANOVA the arithmetical workings are set out in the most explicit way possible for heuristic purposes (i.e., the objective is to show as clearly as possible what is going on). In practice, various short-cut methods of calculation are possible, particularly in an examination context. For example, first-year Oxford University psychology students are allowed the use of a hand calculator in the Psychology Prelims exam, and the Department of Statistics recommends the method of calculation summarized in Appendix 1.

Appendix 2 summarises some points concerning repeated measures and interaction effects. These are topics which are not directly involved in the particular worked example in this tutorial, although the concept of repeated measures is alluded to. However, the Appendix may be useful to people learning about other forms of the ANOVA.

1.2 Recommended reading:

The present tutorial will probably be found more useful if some preliminary reading around the topic has already been done. It does not matter if not everything in the reading is clear on the first go through. After the preliminary reading you can work through the example in the present tutorial and then return to the books, when you may have a better feel for the topic.

I particularly suggest that it is important not to get bogged down in trying to understand the details of areas of the topic which may not be relevant to one's syllabus. Some of the books mentioned below go into the subject in great depth, and with a degree of detail which is probably unnecessary for the purposes of most examinations.

For the purposes of understanding what is going on in a two-way ANOVA I particularly recommend following the worked example given on pp. 355-357 of Murray Spiegel's book listed below. The arithmetical workings are laid

out very explicitly, with a minimum of abstract notation. In my view going through an explicit worked example of this kind can give the student a better understanding of the underlying theoretical basis of ANOVA than listening to a verbal exposition.

Hoel, Paul G. (1976). *Elementary Statistics* (4th edition). New York: Wiley. Chapter 11.

Covers one-way and two-way ANOVAs in a relatively user-friendly manner.

Howell, David C. (1997). *Statistical Methods for Psychology* (4th edition). London: Duxbury Press. Chapters 11-14.

There are nearly 200 pages on ANOVA in these four chapters, covering all aspects of the subject, including repeated measures designs.

Hays, William L. (1994). *Statistics* (5th edition). Orlando, Florida: Harcourt Brace. Chapters 10-12.

More than 200 pages in this case. Similar in comprehensiveness to Howell.

Spiegel, Murray R. (1992). *Schaum's Outline of Theory and Problems of Statistics* (2nd edition). New York: McGraw-Hill. Chapter 16.

The theoretical introduction to this chapter is compressed, but the worked examples in the remainder may be helpful.

2. The question²

(i) What is meant by *randomisation*?

An undesirable effect of some antihistamines is drowsiness, which is a consequence of the effect of the drugs on the central nervous system. These data come from an experiment of Hedges, Hills, Maclay, Newman-Taylor and Turner (1971) to compare the effect on the central nervous system of a placebo and two antihistamines. This was done by measuring the *flicker frequency*³ some time after drug administration in four volunteers who have taken the three treatments. The data presented here are scaled measures based on the flicker frequency.

| Subject Number | Meclastine | Promethazine | Placebo |
|----------------|------------|--------------|---------|
| 1 | 112 | 112 | 131 |
| 2 | 48 | 37 | 61 |
| 3 | 106 | 93 | 112 |
| 4 | 51 | 46 | 70 |

(ii) Plot these data in a meaningful way and comment.

(iii) Carry out an appropriate analysis to examine whether there is a difference between the effects of the different drugs, stating clearly your hypotheses, conclusions and any assumptions made.

(iv) State two precautions which should have been taken in running this experiment.

(v) Give two benefits which would have resulted if more than one measurement for each drug for each subject had been obtained.

² The question is taken from the Prelims Statistics paper for first-year psychology students at Oxford University, Hilary Term, 1999.

³ The *flicker frequency*, often referred to as the *critical flicker frequency* or CFF, is that frequency at which a flickering light appears to a particular observer to be continuous rather than discontinuous. It is usually estimated by taking a series of readings from both below and above; that is to say, the experimenter starts with a frequency below the fusion point and gradually increases it until the flicker disappears; he/she then starts again from a frequency above the fusion point and lowers the frequency until the flicker appears again. The CFF reading for a given subject at a given time would then be the mean of several observations taken in both directions, to allow for 'noise' (i.e., random moment-to-moment small fluctuations in the CFF).

3. The answer

3.1 What is meant by randomisation?

Random sampling: a sample is said to be taken at random from a population when each member of the population has an equal chance of being chosen. One result is that each member would be selected approximately the same number of times as any other member given a large number of repetitions of the experiment.

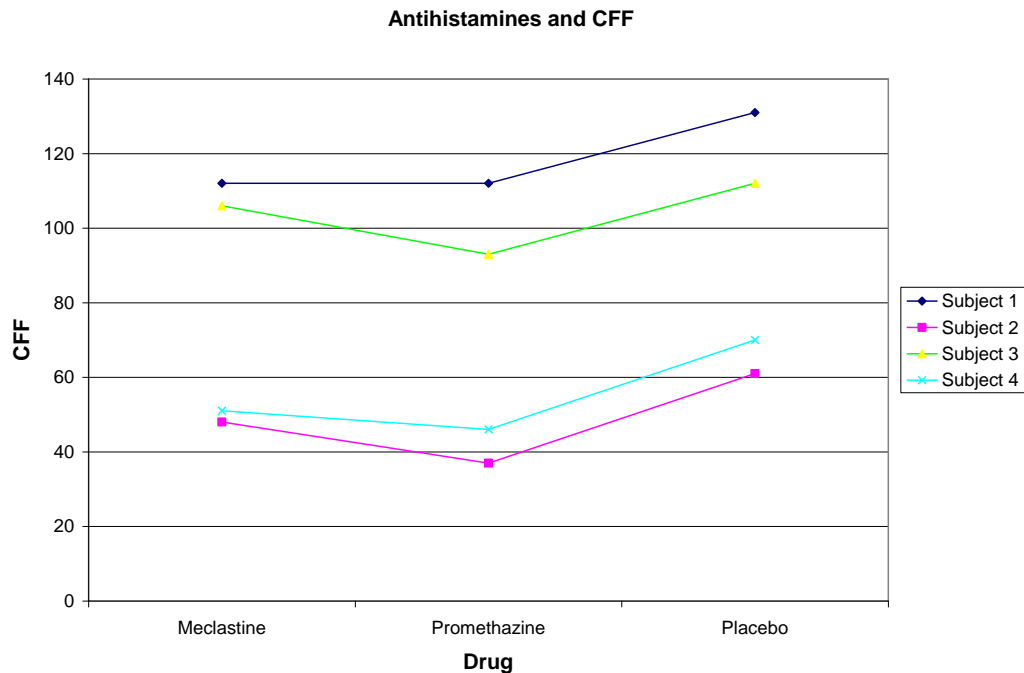
The concept of *randomisation* in the design of experiments is a distinct but related concept. It refers to the process of allocating each member of the population being studied to one of a number of possible experimental conditions, or 'treatment groups', by some chance process such as the use of random number tables. Assuming that we wish to have an equal number of subjects in each group, the chances of a given subject being allocated to each of the possible conditions are thus equal.

The purpose of random allocation of this kind is to produce treatment groups that are as nearly similar as possible prior to the experimental procedure whose effect it is desired to measure. Thus any difference between the groups subsequent to the treatment may be attributed to the experimental treatment and not to some systematic, prior difference between them.

Random allocation also serves the purpose of precluding any bias, conscious or unconscious, on the part of the experimenter, who may have a vested interest in a particular experimental outcome.

If the experiment takes the form of each subject being subjected to several different treatments at different times, then the order of the different treatments may be randomised for each subject, to control for the possibility of one treatment potentiating or diminishing the effect of a later treatment.

3.2 The plot



Comment on the plot:

The most notable effect appears to be large individual differences in baseline critical flicker frequency or CFF. It also appears that both antihistamines have the effect of depressing the CFF, since the highest mean value in all four subjects is for the placebo condition. Promethazine would appear to depress it more than Meclastine, though this difference may not be statistically significant, given the small number of subjects.

[The data are consistent with the idea that the CFF is a measure of sensory efficiency and hence cortical arousal.]

3.3 The ANOVA analysis

We will perform a two-way ANOVA on the data to determine whether there is any significant difference between the effects of the different drugs. There

will be two factors in this analysis: 'Drug', which has three levels⁴ (i.e., Meclastine, Promethazine and Placebo); and 'Subject', which has four. The inter-subject variability referred to above suggests that there may be a significant main effect⁵ for Subject. Whether the intra-subject variability is sufficient to give us a main effect for Drug is less clear.

3.3.1 Hypothesis and assumptions

The hypothesis is that the two antihistamines depress cortical arousal, and hence visual efficiency as measured by the visual system's power of temporal resolution. We predict that the CFF will therefore be significantly lower under the influence of the antihistamines than under the placebo condition.

The *null hypothesis* is that antihistamines do *not* significantly depress visual performance. Therefore, we hope to see results that allow us to *reject* the null hypothesis with high probability.

Our assumptions are: (1) that the observations under each condition are drawn from a normal distribution, even though there are too few under each condition to constitute a normal sample; and (2) that the variances of each of these underlying normal distributions are approximately equal.

[These are general assumptions underlying all applications of the ANOVA test. Note that the question explicitly mentions that the data are from 'scaled measures'; i.e., they are at least interval data, so a parametric test such as ANOVA is appropriate.

For an explanation of the distinctions between interval and other types of measurements, and the implications for what type of test to use on a given type of data, please refer to Appendix 2 to the tutorial on the chi-square test.⁶]

⁴ 'Level' in analysis of variance is simply a technical term for the different possible values of a variable or 'factor'.

⁵ For a definition of 'main effect' and a discussion of the difference between this and an 'interaction effect', see Appendix 2 at the end of this tutorial.

⁶ Available here: <http://www.celiagreen.com/charlesmccreery.html>

3.3.2 Computation of the ANOVA

| Subject Number | Meclastine | Promethazine | Placebo | Row Mean |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | 112 | 112 | 131 | 118.33 |
| 2 | 48 | 37 | 61 | 48.67 |
| 3 | 106 | 93 | 112 | 103.67 |
| 4 | 51 | 46 | 70 | 55.67 |
| Column Mean | 79.25 | 72 | 93.5 | |

Calculation of the total sum of squares of the data:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Grand mean} &= (112 + 48 + 106 + 51 \\
 &\quad + 112 + 37 + 93 + 46 \\
 &\quad + 131 + 61 + 112 + 70) / 12 \\
 &= 979/12 \\
 &= 81.58
 \end{aligned}$$

| Observation | Deviation of observation from grand mean | Deviation squared |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 112 | 30.42 | 925.38 |
| 48 | -33.58 | 1,127.62 |
| 106 | 24.42 | 596.34 |
| 51 | -30.58 | 935.14 |
| 112 | 30.42 | 925.38 |
| 37 | -44.58 | 1,987.38 |
| 93 | 11.42 | 130.42 |
| 46 | -35.58 | 1,265.94 |
| 131 | 49.42 | 2,442.34 |
| 61 | -20.58 | 423.54 |
| 112 | 30.42 | 925.38 |
| 70 | -11.58 | 134.10 |
| Grand mean 81.58 | Total sum of squares (TSS): | 11,818.92 |

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Total number of observations: } n &= (\text{no. of rows}) * (\text{no. of columns}) \\
 &= r * c \\
 &= 4 * 3 \\
 &= 12.
 \end{aligned}$$

[The calculation of TSS is laid out in the explicit form above for heuristic purposes. In practice you are likely to be able to use a short-cut method for calculating the TSS. For example, in the Oxford University Psychology Prelims examination the student is allowed the use of a hand calculator, and may therefore calculate the TSS by entering all 12 observations into the calculator, working out their standard deviation (SD) and squaring the SD to get the variance. Having got the variance, you can derive the TSS by multiplying the variance by $(n - 1)$, where n is the total number of observations. See Appendix I for a summary of the steps using this method.

N.B. There are two separate operational definitions of variance (and hence of SD, its square root). If we are calculating the variance of a *population*, we divide TSS by N , the total number in the population; but if we are dealing with only a *sample* of a population, as in the present example, we divide by $(n - 1)$, where n is the total number in the sample. This is an adjustment designed to allow for *sampling error* in our data, or random variation from sample to sample.

If using a calculator, therefore, it is advisable to be aware of which definition is being used, as some calculators are able to calculate both versions.

For more on the distinction between populations and samples, see Appendix 3 at the end of this tutorial.]

Row calculations:

| Row means | Deviation of row mean from grand mean | Deviation squared |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 118.33 | 36.75 | 1350.81 |
| 48.67 | -32.91 | 1083.29 |
| 103.67 | 22.09 | 487.82 |
| 55.67 | -25.91 | 671.50 |
| Grand mean =81.58 | Row sum of squares: | 3592.93 |

Row Sum of Squares (RSS) = Sum of squares of row means * No. of columns

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 3592.93 * 3 \\
 &= 10,778.79
 \end{aligned}$$

[Note that RSS is the variation in just one column of figures, albeit a representative one. To get an estimate of the overall variation due to the 'row factor', Subject, we have to extrapolate this variation across the whole two-dimensional array of columns; hence the need to multiply by the number of columns.

As with the computation of the TSS, the calculation of the RSS shown above is laid out in a manner designed to show the underlying rationale of ANOVA, whereas a short-cut method may be used in an examination in which a calculator is permitted. For details of this method, see Appendix 1.]

Column calculations:

| Column means | Deviation of column mean from grand mean | Deviation squared |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 79.25 | -2.33 | 5.43 |
| 72.00 | -9.58 | 91.78 |
| 93.50 | 11.92 | 142.09 |
| Grand mean =81.58 | Sum of squares: | 239.30 |

[Note that the sum of squares of the column means is much less than that of the row means, reflecting the fact that, simply from visual inspection of the data, there seems to be more variability from one subject to another than within-subject variability due to the different effect of different drugs.]

Column Sum of Squares (CSS) = Sum of squares of column means * No. of rows

$$= 239.30 * 4$$

$$= 957.20$$

[This time we are multiplying the sum of squares of the *column* means by the number of *rows*, for an analogous reason to that given for multiplying the sum of squares of the row means by the number of columns.

As with the RSS, an alternative method of calculating the CSS is given in Appendix 1.]

Within groups/error sum of squares (ESS):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ESS} &= \text{TSS} - \text{RSS} - \text{CSS} \\ &= 11,818.92 - 10,778.76 - 957.20 \\ &= 82.96 \end{aligned}$$

[In an experimental design like this there are only two sources of variation in the CFF readings which are of interest to us: variation associated with different drugs (i.e., between-groups or 'horizontal' variation), and variation associated with different subjects (i.e., within-groups or 'vertical' variation). So if we know the value of the total variation and the value of both these two sorts of variation, then 'error variation' is simply what is left over when we have subtracted both sorts from the total.

Note that the term 'error' here does not imply any sort of mistake. In another context the error variation might be of interest to us. Some of it might be due to a time of day effect, for example, if the subjects were not all run at the same time of day.

The error term in this case is extremely small relative to the main effects for Subject and Drug. The reason for this can be seen from the plot: the pattern of variation due to drug is very similar in each subject, so that by the time one has taken out the variation in the scores due to drug and that due to subject, the effect of any other factor appears to be minimal.]

Computation of mean squares:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Row Mean Square (RMS)} &= \text{RSS} / (r - 1) \\ &= 10,778.79 / 3 \\ &= 3592.93 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Column Mean Square (CMS)} &= \text{CSS} / (c - 1) \\ &= 957.20 / 2 \\ &= 478.60 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Error Mean Square (EMS)} &= \text{ESS} / ((r - 1) * (c - 1)) \\ &= 82.96 / 6 \\ &= 13.83 \end{aligned}$$

Computation of degrees of freedom

Rows:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Degrees of freedom (d.f.)} &= (r - 1) \\ &= 4 - 1 \\ &= 3\end{aligned}$$

Columns:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{d.f.} &= (c - 1) \\ &= 3 - 1 \\ &= 2\end{aligned}$$

Error:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{d.f.} &= (r - 1)(c - 1) \\ &= 3 * 2 \\ &= 6\end{aligned}$$

[Note that there are always two separate sets of degrees of freedom to be taken into account when looking up the probability of an F value in a two-way ANOVA: one for the numerator in the F ratio (i.e., the RMS if one is looking up the row main effect) and one for the denominator (always the EMS).]

3.3.3 Results and conclusions

| ANOVA Table | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Source of variation | Degrees of freedom | Sum of Squares | Mean Square | F |
| Rows | 3 | 10,778.76 | 3592.92 | RMS/EMS=259.79 |
| Columns | 2 | 957.20 | 478.60 | CMS/EMS=34.60 |
| Error | 6 | 82.96 | 13.83 | |
| Total: | 11 | 11,818.92 | | |

The critical value for F at the 0.05 level with 2 and 6 degrees of freedom is 5.14 (see, for example, Table IX in Hoel, 1976, pp. 338-341). Our F value for the Column Mean Square/Error Mean Square variance ratio (also called

the Main Effect for Drug) far exceeds this value; we can therefore reject the null hypothesis that the antihistamines do not significantly depress visual performance.

The Main Effect for Subject is even more significant, as suggested by the plot.

[It can be seen simply from visual inspection of the data that there is far greater variability from subject to subject than there is from one condition to another. This fact is reflected in the far larger value for the row sum of squares than for the column sum of squares, which is the one we are interested in. In another context we might of course be interested in the within-samples variability (e.g., in a study of individual differences in response to antihistamines, or individual differences in base-line CFF).]

3.4 Design precautions which should have been taken:

(1) The order in which the drugs/placebo were administered to each subject should have been randomised. Despite the small number of subjects, this would go some way towards reducing the possibility of the *latent effect*⁷ of one of the drugs potentiating the effect of another.

(2) Sufficient time should have been allowed to elapse between the administration of each drug to avoid any possibility of a *carry-over effect*⁸ (i.e., the effect of the first drug treatment not having worn off before the second was given).

3.5 Two potential benefits from a repeated measures design:

(1) Administering each drug more than once to each subject would have increased the reliability of the readings.

(2) Repeated administration of each drug to each subject would have meant that it was possible to randomly vary the position of each drug for each subject in successive experiments. For example, if Meclastine was the first

⁷ See Appendix 2

⁸ See Appendix 2

drug to be administered to Subject 1 in the first experiment, then it could have been administered second or third in a second experiment. This randomisation of the order of administration between experiments and within subjects would have provided an even stronger control for any latent effect than simply randomising the order of administration between subjects in one experiment as recommended in Section 3.4 (1) above.

Appendix 1

‘Short-cut’ method for computing a two-way ANOVA⁹

Definitions:

Number of rows = r

Number of columns = c

1. Calculate the **row means** and **column means**.
2. (a) Calculate the **total variance** of *all* the observations, using a calculator,
(b) Calculate the **total sum of squares (TSS)** by multiplying the total variance by $(n - 1)$, where n is the total number of observations.

[*Caveat:* As mentioned in the text above, there are two separate operational definitions of variance (and hence of SD, its square root). Make sure your calculator is using the version for samples, which uses $(n - 1)$, rather than the version for populations, which uses N .]

3. Row calculations:

- (i) Compute the **variance of the row means**; i.e., enter your various row means from (1) into the calculator and find their variance.
- (ii) Compute the **row mean square (RMS)** by multiplying the variance of the row means by c (the number of *columns*).
- (iii) Compute **row sum of squares (RSS)** by multiplying RMS by $(r - 1)$.

⁹ This Appendix summarises the method recommended by the handbook accompanying the Oxford University Psychology Prelims Statistics course: *Definitions and Formulae with Statistical Tables for Elementary Statistics and Quantitative Methods Courses*, Department of Statistics, University of Oxford, 1999.

[The same caveat applies here as in the case of the short-cut computation of TSS given above: be sure you know which definition of variance your calculator is using.]

4. Column calculations:

- (i) Compute the **variance of the column means**; i.e., enter your various column means from (1) into the calculator and find their variance.
- (ii) Compute the **column mean square (CMS)** by multiplying the variance of the column means by r (the number of *rows*).
- (iii) Compute the **column sum of squares (CSS)** by multiplying CMS by $(c - 1)$.

[Observe the usual caveat with regard to the definition of variance.]

5. Compute the **error sum of squares (ESS)**:

i.e., take both the row sum of squares (RSS) and the column sum of squares (CSS) from total sum of squares (TSS). In other words, take results 3(iii) and 4(iii) from result (2). The error sum of squares is whatever is left.

6. Compute the **error mean square (EMS)** from (5):

i.e., divide the result of (5), the error sum of squares, by the product of $(r - 1)$ and $(c - 1)$.

7. You now have all the values you need to complete your ANOVA table (see the worked example above for a model), work out your F ratios and look up their corresponding p -values.

Note that there are always two separate sets of degrees of freedom to be taken into account when looking up the probability of an F value in a two-way ANOVA: one for the numerator in the F ratio (i.e., the RMS if one is looking up the row main effect) and one for the denominator (always the EMS).

Appendix 2

Repeated measures and interaction effects

Repeated Measures

- **Definition:**

Any experiment in which the same variable is measured more than once for each subject is a repeated measures design; e.g., a paired *t*-test in which two measures, 'before' and 'after', are taken for each subject S.

- **Advantage of repeated measures designs:**

- they reduce overall variability by using fewer subjects
- they control for individual differences

- **Disadvantages:**

- the *carry-over effect* (e.g., effect of first drug treatment has not worn off before second is given and tested)
- the *latent effect* (second drug potentiates or activates the latent effect of the first)
- the *learning effect* (self-explanatory; most relevant to psychology experiments)

Interaction

An *interaction effect* should be thought of in contradistinction to a *main effect*.

- **Main Effects**

A *main effect* is what we would measure if we were to collapse all our data into the several levels of a single factor and compare the resulting means.

- **Interaction Effects**

An *interaction effect* can be thought of as a correlation or interaction between two or more factors. In other words, the influence of two or more factors is not independent of each other: they interact.

- **Interaction Effects may be 'second-order' but they are not necessarily secondary in importance**

An interaction effect may be of greater interest than a main effect. In fact it may be the main object of investigation of an experiment.

See Howell (1997) for discussions of the basic ideas of both interaction (pp. 409-411) and repeated measures (pp. 450-452).

Reference:

Howell, David C. (1997). *Statistical Methods for Psychology* (4th edition). London: Duxbury Press.

Appendix 3

The theoretical distinction between samples and populations

Its importance: ‘*Statistical methods may be described as methods for drawing conclusions about populations by means of samples.*’ Hoel, 1976, p.2

| | Samples | | Populations |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Nature of measures: | Always empirical (<i>a posteriori</i>) | | May be theoretical (<i>a priori</i>) (e.g., mean IQ score, or predictions from binomial); or, if unknown, may have to be represented by a sample. |
| Represented by: | English alphabet | | Mainly Greek alphabet |
| Examples: | x | Mean | μ |
| | s^2 | Variance | σ^2 |
| | S | Standard deviation | σ |
| | p | Proportion | p |

SAMPLING - Key concepts

Sampling error¹⁰

- the variability from sample to sample due to chance

¹⁰ N.B., does not imply any mistake.

Sampling distribution of a statistic

- ‘the most basic concept underlying all statistical tests’ (Howell, 1997, p.90)
- tells us ‘what degree of sample-to-sample variability we can expect by chance as a function of sampling error’ (Ibid.)
- or ‘the distribution of values obtained for that statistic over repeated sampling’ (Ibid.)
- derived mathematically rather than empirically

Sampling distribution for the mean

- ‘distribution of means of an infinite number of random samples’ (Howell, 1997, p.90)

Standard Error

- the standard deviation of a sampling distribution of a statistic

General Bibliography

Textbooks of the kind listed below are usually updated every few years. If the reader finds there is an edition later than the one listed here, he or she is recommended to buy the latest version.

Greene, Judith and D'Oliveira, Manuela (1982). *Learning to Use Statistical Tests in Psychology*. Milton Keynes: Open University Press.

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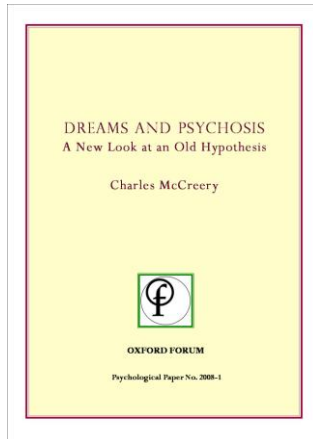
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Dreams and Psychosis
A new look at an old hypothesis



Oxford Forum

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This paper proposes a theory of psychosis based on a link between sleep and hyperarousal. It is argued that the phenomenological similarities between psychosis and dreams arise from the fact that sleep can occur, not only in states of deafferentation and low arousal, but also in states of hyperarousal resulting from extreme stress (Oswald, 1962).

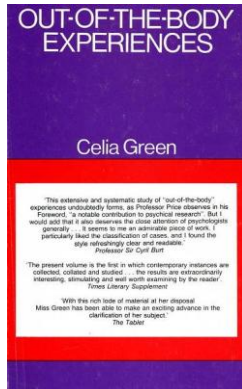
It is proposed that both schizophrenic and manic-depressive patients are people who are prone to episodes of hyperarousal. Various sorts of electrophysiological evidence are adduced for this proposition, drawn from the fields of electroencephalography, studies of the galvanic skin response and studies of smooth pursuit eye movements. In addition, it is suggested that a key finding is the apparently paradoxical one that catatonic patients can be aroused from their seeming stupor by the administration of sedatives rather than stimulants (Stevens and Darbyshire, 1958).

It is proposed that a tendency to hyperarousal leaves certain individuals vulnerable to 'micro-sleeps' (Oswald, 1962) in everyday life, with the attendant phenomena of hallucination and other sorts of reality-distortion. Delusional thinking may follow as an attempt to rationalise these intrusions of dream-phenomena into daylight hours.

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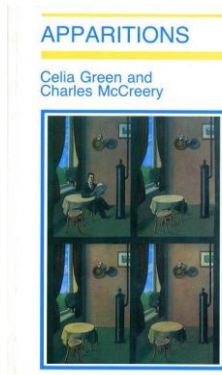
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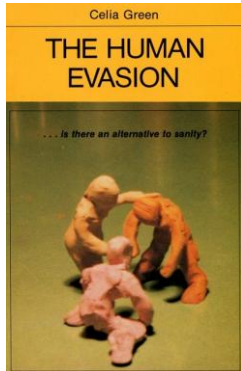
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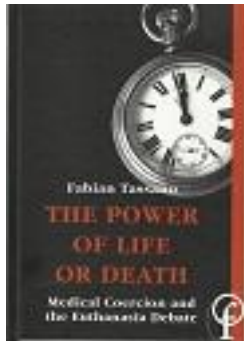
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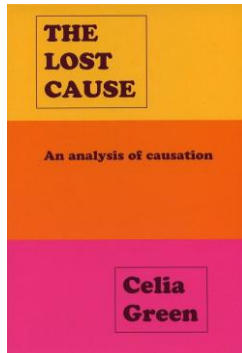
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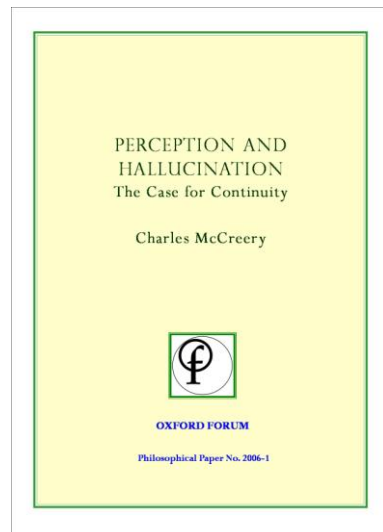
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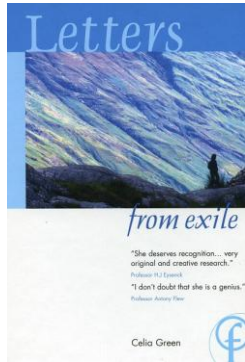
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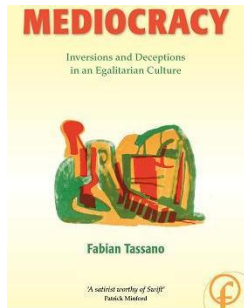
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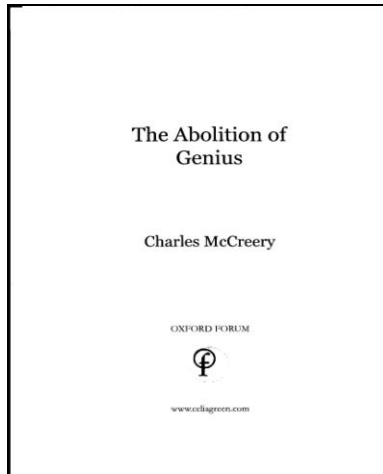
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Foreword by Professor H.J. Eysenck, PhD, DSc



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