

Who is this man?



And what is his relation to statistics and

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Gosset attended Winchester College before studying chemistry and mathematics at New College, Oxford. Upon graduating in 1899, he joined the brewery of Arthur Guinness & Son in Dublin, Ireland.

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In the years 1906-1908 he developed methods for analyzing data from small samples. These methods included the  $t$  statistic (used, as we have just learned, in computing confidence intervals for the mean), the  $t$  distribution, and the  $t$  test (which we will meet in chapter 6).

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However, after pleading with the brewery and explaining that his mathematical and philosophical conclusions were of no possible practical use to competing brewers, he was allowed to publish them, but under a pseudonym ("Student"), to avoid difficulties with the rest of the staff. Thus his most noteworthy achievement is now called Student's, rather than Gosset's, t-distribution.

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