

25 January 1955

Professor A. M. Gleason
161 Hancock Street
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Andy:

I am much indebted to you for your very interesting letter of 22 January.

It appears that the formula which you indicated is one not widely known to scholars in probability theory. Certainly neither Sam Wilks nor Dick Leibler mentioned it. I showed your letter to Mr. C. Russell Summers in Dick Leibler's shop and he was delighted with its contents. In fact, you saved him a great deal of tedious labor which he was about to undertake, not only in my behalf but also because the problem to which the formula is addressed is, he says, one of considerable potential importance to us in certain areas of our research.

What I would like to suggest is that you write a brief paper on the problem which I posed and which then could be published in some NSA medium such as the quarterly report gotten out by NSA-34 on their researches. It is possible you might want to publish a paper in some unclassified mathematical journal, for I see no reason why it couldn't be done that way. But if you are not sufficiently interested, Summers would be very glad to work up a paper which would make use of the formula you cited and show some applications.

Please let me know your thoughts or wishes in this regard, so that I can tell Summers. In the meantime, please accept my best thanks for a quick and neat solution to the problem.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN