

ROTHAMSTED EXPERIMENTAL STATION
(LAWES AGRICULTURAL TRUST)

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HARPENDEN
HERTS
4th. March, 1937.

Dr. R. A. Fisher,
Galton Laboratory,
University College,
Gower Street,
London, W.C.1.

Dear Dr. Fisher,

After our conversation on Saturday, I wrote to Aitken asking if he had devised methods of finding the largest positive root of

$$|A - \lambda B| = 0$$

I enclose his reply, which may prove helpful. He suggests multiplying by B^{-1} to transform the equation to

$$|X - \lambda 1| = 0$$

for which he has quick methods. If you think his suggestion worth trying, I will be glad to test it on the data you were using or other data.

I would like to have his letter back sometime, but there is no hurry.

Yours Sincerely

W G Cochran