Meeting: 1000, Albuquerque, New Mexico, SS 4A, Special Session on Financial Mathematics: The Mathematics of Derivative Securities

1000-90-8 **C C Heyde** (chris@stat.columbia.edu), Dept. of Statistics, 618 Mathematics Building, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027, and **S G Kou*** (sk75@columbia.edu), 312 Mudd Building, Dept. of IEOR, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027. *On the Controversy over Tailweight of Distributions.*

Although understanding tail behavior of distributions is important in many areas, such as finance and telecommunications network analysis, there is considerable controversy about distinctions between exponential type and power type tails. This paper explains why the distinctions are surprisingly difficult for popular methods in the literature, and why particularly large samples are needed for clear discrimination. (Received May 04, 2004)