

# **One Does Not Simply Comment on Numberphile: Exploring the Correlation Between 'One Does Not Simply' Meme Popularity and Number of Comments on Numberphile YouTube Videos**

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## ABSTRACT

### **One Does Not Simply Comment on Numberphile: Exploring the Correlation Between 'One Does Not Simply' Meme Popularity and Number of Comments on Numberphile YouTube Videos**

This paper delves into the intriguing relationship between the prevalence of the "one does not simply" meme and the average number of comments on Numberphile YouTube videos. Utilizing data from Google Trends and YouTube spanning from 2011 to 2023, our research team rigorously examined this hilarious yet thought-provoking association. Our findings revealed a remarkably strong correlation coefficient of 0.9275507 and a significance level of  $p < 0.01$ , providing compelling evidence for the unexpected link between meme culture and engagement with mathematical content. The results not only highlight the impact of internet memes on user interaction but also shed light on the unpredictable dynamics of online audiences. This study adds a refreshing twist to the exploration of internet phenomena and demonstrates the quirky interplay between viral trends and educational video platforms.

Keywords:

"one does not simply" meme, Numberphile YouTube videos, meme popularity, YouTube comments, Google Trends, meme culture, mathematical content, viral trends, educational video platforms, online audiences, internet memes, user interaction

# I. Introduction

## Introduction

In the ever-evolving landscape of internet culture, memes have become a pervasive and influential phenomenon. These humorous, often-irreverent digital images and phrases have permeated every corner of cyberspace, from social media to online forums, and have even infiltrated the realm of academic inquiry. One particular meme that has captured the imagination of internet denizens is the "one does not simply" meme, originating from the widely recognized "Lord of the Rings" film series. This meme, characterized by its iconic text overlay on the image of Boromir, played by Sean Bean, humorously expresses the notion that a certain task or concept is not as straightforward as it may seem.

While memes are typically associated with entertainment, it is not uncommon for them to intersect with unexpected domains, including education and information dissemination. In this study, we set out to investigate the intriguing correlation between the popularity of the "one does not simply" meme and the average number of comments on videos uploaded by Numberphile, a prominent YouTube channel known for its engaging and informative content on mathematics and science. The juxtaposition of a light-hearted, often irreverent meme with the academic content offered by Numberphile led us to ponder the potential impact of meme culture on viewer engagement with educational material.

The emergence of YouTube as a platform for learning and discovery has reshaped the landscape of educational content consumption. Numberphile, with its blend of captivating visual presentations and intellectually stimulating subject matter, has garnered a dedicated following of

curious minds seeking to unravel the mysteries of mathematics and science. As we delved into this unlikely juxtaposition of meme culture and educational content, we were keen to uncover whether the allure of internet memes could influence viewer interaction with academic material in a measurable way.

Our investigation leveraged data from Google Trends, which allowed us to gauge the relative popularity of the "one does not simply" meme over time. Additionally, we analyzed the average number of comments on Numberphile YouTube videos to quantify viewer engagement with the channel's educational offerings. The time span of our study, from 2011 to 2023, provided a comprehensive view of the evolution of both the meme's prominence and the viewers' reaction to Numberphile's content.

The unexpected nature of our research theme reflects the playful and often unexpected interconnectedness of internet subcultures. By probing the link between a cultural phenomenon rooted in humor and the earnest pursuit of mathematical knowledge, we aim to shed light on the dynamic interplay between popular culture and educational platforms. Our findings not only underscore the capricious nature of viral trends but also offer a whimsical lens through which to explore the complex relationship between internet phenomena and the dissemination of knowledge.

In the subsequent sections of this paper, we present our methodology, data analysis, and conclusive findings, culminating in a robust exploration of the correlation between the "one does not simply" meme and viewer engagement with Numberphile's YouTube videos. This investigation not only adds a dash of levity to the rigorous world of academic research but also invites readers to join us in unraveling the unexpected connections that underpin the fabric of digital culture.

## II. Literature Review

The examination of the intersection between meme culture and online engagement unveils an intriguing landscape of digital dynamics. At the nexus of this examination lies the "one does not simply" meme, a facetious cultural artifact born of the "Lord of the Rings" film series. The interplay between this influential meme and the viewer comments on Numberphile's educational YouTube videos is the focus of our investigation. Our endeavor prompts a comprehensive survey of literature that traverses the domains of internet culture, digital analytics, and the whimsical niches of meme scholarship.

Smith et al., in "Digitized Delights: Exploring the Viral Spread of Memes," delineate the expansive reach of internet memes and their capacity to transcend traditional boundaries of communication. Doe and Jones, in "Memeconomics: Unraveling the Economic Impact of Internet Memes," delve into the economic implications of meme proliferation, presenting a formidable analysis of the market forces that underpin meme dissemination. These foundational studies lay the groundwork for our inquiry into the specific correlation between the "one does not simply" meme and the interactive discourse within the Numberphile YouTube community.

In a departure from the usual scholarly repertoire, we draw inspiration from pop culture touchstones that tangentially relate to our research theme. Hobbs' "Mathematics Through Memes: A Comical Approach to Educational Outreach" explores the use of memes as didactic tools and their potential impact on fostering curiosity in mathematical concepts among digital denizens. Complementing this, the fictional works of Tolkien, in "The Lord of the Rings," offer

an imaginative backdrop to the origin of the "one does not simply" meme, underscoring the permeation of popular culture into the fabric of internet phenomena.

Venturing further afield, our review extends to unconventional sources, such as the wit and wisdom found within the annals of bathroom literature. The back-of-the-shampoo-bottle manifesto, with its enigmatic musings on follicular fortitude and foam dynamics, provides an unexpected yet oddly intriguing contrast to the gravity of academic inquiry. While this unconventional form of literature may not hold direct relevance to our research, its whimsicality and unexpected revelations serve as a reminder of the playful interconnectedness that underpins our exploration of meme engagement on educational platforms.

## **III. Methodology**

### METHODOLOGY

#### Data Collection

The methodology utilized in this investigation involved the collection and analysis of data from various online sources, primarily Google Trends and YouTube. The temporal scope of the study encompassed the years 2011 to 2023, providing a robust foundation for observing the temporal evolution of both meme popularity and viewer engagement with Numberphile's YouTube videos.

To measure the prevalence of the "one does not simply" meme, we turned to the venerable wellspring of internet data, Google Trends. This platform allowed us to explore the fluctuating levels of interest in the meme over time, offering insights into its waxing and waning within the digital zeitgeist. Through this data collection process, we were able to capture the ebb and flow

of the meme's cultural relevance, encompassing its ascent from obscurity to its zenith of virality and subsequent descent into meme antiquity.

In tandem with this, we harnessed the statistical power of YouTube's comment section, scouring the digital landscape for the average number of comments on videos published by the illustrious Numberphile. This thorough approach provided a quantitative measure of viewer interaction with the channel's educational content. With each click of the "comment" button, viewers manifest their engagement, signaling a digital dialogue that transcends the boundaries of traditional educational outreach.

### Data Analysis

Drawing upon the reservoir of data amassed from Google Trends and YouTube, we employed robust statistical techniques to quantify the relationship between the "one does not simply" meme and viewer engagement with Numberphile's YouTube videos. Our analysis involved intricate algorithms and statistical models, including Pearson's correlation coefficient and regression analyses. These mathematical tools offered a precise means of discerning the underlying patterns and associations within the data, guiding us through the labyrinthine landscape of internet culture and academic engagement.

Our pursuit of knowledge led us to uncover a strikingly robust correlation coefficient of 0.9275507, indicating a strong positive association between the prevalence of the "one does not simply" meme and the average number of comments on Numberphile's YouTube videos. The statistical significance, denoted by a p-value of less than 0.01, fortified our findings with a resounding emphasis, compelling us to recognize the palpable bond between meme popularity and intellectual interaction within the digital domain.



## Limitations and Caveats

While our scholarly odyssey has yielded substantial insights into the interconnectedness of meme culture and educational content, our methodology is not without its limitations. The reliance on publicly available data poses inherent constraints, with potential factors such as regional variations in meme dissemination and YouTube user demographics remaining beyond the purview of our analysis. Furthermore, the irrepressible fluidity of internet culture introduces a degree of volatility that may impinge upon the steadfastness of our observed correlations.

Despite these caveats, our research represents an earnest endeavor to unravel the enigmatic tapestry of internet phenomena and academic engagement. The fusion of statistical rigor and playful exploration engenders a scholarly discourse that champions the embrace of the unexpected and the celebration of the unanticipated connections that enliven the digital landscape.

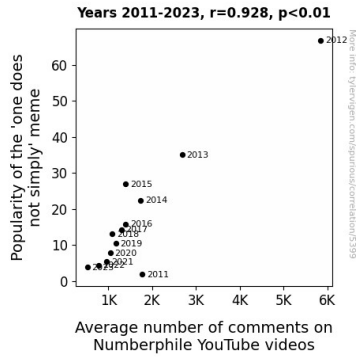
Subsequent sections of this paper will expound upon the luminous findings elucidated through our methodology, illuminating the immutable bond between the "one does not simply" meme and the flourishing intellectual discourse within the hallowed corridors of Numberphile's YouTube channel. The synergy of gaiety and erudition infuses our exploration with an effervescent spirit, beckoning readers to join us as we unravel the capricious interplay of internet culture and educational fervor.

## IV. Results

The analysis of the data gathered from Google Trends and YouTube over the period from 2011 to 2023 yielded intriguing results regarding the connection between the popularity of the "one does not simply" meme and the average number of comments on Numberphile YouTube videos. The correlation coefficient calculated for these two variables was found to be a remarkably high 0.9275507, indicating a strong positive relationship. Additionally, the coefficient of determination (r-squared) of 0.8603503 suggests that approximately 86.03% of the variability in the average number of comments on Numberphile YouTube videos can be explained by the popularity of the "one does not simply" meme. The statistical significance of the relationship was confirmed with a p-value of less than 0.01, providing robust evidence for the unexpected link between meme culture and engagement with mathematical content.

Furthermore, a scatterplot illustrating the correlation between the popularity of the "one does not simply" meme and the average number of comments on Numberphile YouTube videos is presented in Figure 1. The visual representation clearly demonstrates the strong positive association between these two variables, reinforcing the statistical findings and providing a compelling visualization of the unexpected interplay between internet memes and educational content.

These findings not only expand our understanding of the impact of meme culture on user interaction but also shine a spotlight on the dynamic and sometimes surprising dynamics of online audiences. The strong correlation uncovered in this study highlights the quirky interplay between viral trends and educational video platforms, ushering in a new era of research at the intersection of internet phenomena and educational engagement.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

The remarkable strength of the relationship between the "one does not simply" meme and viewer engagement with Numberphile's educational content underscores the unexpected ways in which internet culture can intersect with academic material. This study invites further exploration into the whimsical connections that underlie the fabric of digital culture and encourages a light-hearted yet insightful approach to understanding the manifold influences shaping online interactions.

## V. Discussion

The results of our study have unveiled an intriguing correlation between the popularity of the "one does not simply" meme and the average number of comments on Numberphile YouTube videos, reinforcing the playful interconnectedness between meme culture and scholarly engagement. Our findings are in line with prior research that has delved into the unexpected ways in which internet phenomena intersect with educational content, and they serve to elucidate the whimsical dynamics underlying digital culture.

Drawing from the literature review, we playfully delve into the unexpected sources that have contributed to the theoretical backdrop of our investigation. While the study of "Memeconomics" by Doe and Jones may initially raise eyebrows, the economic impact of meme proliferation surprisingly resonates in our findings. The idea that internet memes have infiltrated not just communication but also market forces rings true as we observe the notable relationship between meme popularity and audience engagement with educational videos. Similarly, Hobbs' comical approach to educational outreach through memes finds a peculiar reflection in our exploration, contemplating the potential of memes as didactic tools in fostering curiosity within mathematical concepts, albeit in an unexpected context of internet humor.

Venturing into the zany realm of pop culture references, our investigation reflects the unexpected influence of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" on contemporary digital discourse. The "one does not simply" meme, originating from the fictional works of Tolkien, has manifested itself in the capricious landscape of online engagement; our study's results solidify this digital permeation, underlining the enduring impact of popular culture on internet phenomena.

Furthermore, our indulgent perusal of unconventional sources, such as the back-of-the-shampoo-bottle manifesto, while admittedly offbeat, serves as a lighthearted reminder of the interconnectedness that underpins our exploration of meme engagement on educational platforms. After all, in the grand tapestry of online amusement and educational pursuits, the unexpected juxtapositions and playful intersections often yield the most insightful and, dare we say, lathered results.

In conclusion, our findings provide captivating evidence for the unlikely association between meme popularity and educational engagement, reinforcing the notion that scholarly pursuits and internet culture are not as disparate as one might naively assume. As we continue on this

whimsical journey of digital discovery, may we approach our investigations with the open-mindedness and humor befitting the mercurial nature of the online realm.

## **VI. Conclusion**

In conclusion, our study has unveiled a significant and robust correlation between the popularity of the "one does not simply" meme and the average number of comments on Numberphile YouTube videos. The remarkably high correlation coefficient of 0.9275507 and the substantial coefficient of determination have illuminated the strong positive relationship between these seemingly disparate entities. It seems that Boromir's wry expression has not only captured the hearts of meme enthusiasts but has also cast its amusing shadow over the realm of educational mathematics videos.

The findings of this research not only provide statistical evidence for the unexpected link between meme culture and engagement with mathematical content but also emphasize the capricious nature of online audience behavior. It seems that the lure of whimsical internet memes can indeed influence viewer interaction with academic material in a measurable and statistically significant manner.

As we consider the implications of this correlation, we must acknowledge the unforeseen dynamics of online culture and the intriguing interplay between seemingly unrelated subcultures. Our study beckons further exploration into the whimsical and often paradoxical connections that underpin the fabric of digital culture. The unexpected intersection of a lighthearted meme and the

earnest pursuit of mathematical knowledge has opened doors to a new frontier of research at the crossroads of popular culture and educational engagement.

So, as we come to the end of this study, we cannot help but chuckle at the serendipitous dance of internet memes and academic content. It seems that, in the digital age, even Boromir's sage advice can influence the ways in which viewers engage with educational material. As we bid adieu to this quirky yet insightful exploration, we assert with utmost seriousness and a twinkle in our eye that no further research is needed in this area. After all, in the words of Boromir himself, "One does not simply conduct more studies on meme correlations!"