

# The FBI Agent Frenzy and the Flourishing of Function Fanatics: A Funny Foray into Fandom and Formulae in Colorado

Colton Hamilton, Amelia Turner, Gloria P Thornton

Berkeley, California

*The internet meme culture has become a prominent aspect of modern society, with various memes capturing the attention and fascination of online communities. In this study, we tackle the unusual yet intriguing question of the potential relationship between the popularity of the 'FBI agent' meme and the number of mathematicians in Colorado. Our goal is to add a touch of humor to the field of statistical analysis and explore the lighthearted side of academic inquiry. Utilizing data from Google Trends and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, we delved into a rather comical investigation, seeking to uncover any meaningful connection between internet memes and the professional landscape of mathematics. In a peculiar twist of fate, our analysis revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.8815814 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01 for the years 2006 to 2022. As Albert Einstein once said, "Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas." It seems that this poetic domain might have a surprising relationship with online humor. Our findings suggest that the surge in popularity of the 'FBI agent' meme coincides with an increase in the number of mathematicians in the state of Colorado. While this correlation does not imply causation, it opens up whimsical avenues for further exploration, prompting us to ponder whether the allure of clandestine surveillance in the virtual realm somehow sparks an interest in the enigmatic beauty of mathematical equations. One might say it adds a new dimension to the phrase "number crunching." In conclusion, our study sheds light on the unexpected harmony between internet humor and a seemingly unrelated professional vocation. As researchers, we cannot help but grin at the amusing nature of our discoveries, and we hope that our work sparks a chuckle or two among our scholarly peers. After all, as the saying goes, "Mathematics is the only place where you can buy 64 watermelons and no one wonders why." With this in mind, we look forward to unveiling more comedic corridors in the realm of academic exploration.*

As the internet continues to burgeon with viral content, memes have become the quintessential vehicle for humor and absurdity, transcending through the digital landscape with unstoppable velocity. This brings us to the curious case of the 'FBI agent' meme – a peculiar phenomenon that has captured the imagination of netizens worldwide. The meme, which humorously suggests that an FBI agent is monitoring an individual's online activities,

has sparked a wave of paranoia and amusement in equal measure. One might even say it's surveillance with a side of slapstick – a real "undercover" operation, if you will.

In parallel to the rise of the 'FBI agent' meme, Colorado, known for its stunning natural landscapes and avid outdoor enthusiasts, has also seen a notable increase in the number of individuals diving into the intricacies of mathematics. The state is no

stranger to numbers, but this surge in mathematical pursuits is an intriguing development that left us scratching our heads and chuckling simultaneously. It's almost as if the allure of clandestine surveillance and the mystique of mathematical formulas have formed an unexpected partnership – a partnership that might give a whole new meaning to "the sum of all fears."

In this light-hearted foray into statistical exploration, we are compelled to investigate whether there exists a substantial link between the popularity of the 'FBI agent' meme and the proliferation of mathematicians in the Centennial State. This correlation may appear as bizarre as finding pi in a cornfield, but as the saying goes, "Where do math teachers go on vacation? Times Square."

Our paper aims to bring a dash of levity to the often-serious world of academic research, all the while uncovering any potential connections between internet humor and professional endeavors. We hope that our study provides an enjoyable break from the rigors of scholarly pursuits and tickles the fancy of our esteemed colleagues. After all, as mathematicians like to say, "The problem with math puns is that calculus jokes are all derivative, algebra jokes are usually formulaic, and arithmetic jokes are pretty basic!"

So, join us as we embark on this whimsical journey, aiming to shed a lighthearted, yet illuminating, spotlight on the unlikely fusion of meme culture and the enigmatic world of numbers. As we dig deeper into this intriguing correlation, we are reminded that sometimes, in the realm of research, the most unexpected and amusing connections can surface – much like stumbling upon a square root at a comedy club.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The relationship between internet memes and professional vocations has been a subject of growing interest in the academic community. The intersection of online humor and real-world

occupations presents a unique opportunity for exploring the influence of digital culture on societal trends. In this review, we delve into a selection of literature that provides insights into the connections, or perhaps the comical disconnections, between internet memes and professional pursuits, culminating in our peculiar investigation of the 'FBI agent' meme and the prevalence of mathematicians in Colorado.

Smith et al. (2019) investigate the impact of internet memes on occupational perceptions, revealing how the dissemination of humorous online content can shape public attitudes towards specific professions. Their findings underscore the potential for memes to influence individuals' career aspirations and attitudes towards different fields. It seems that internet humor has the power to transcend the virtual realm and permeate societal perceptions, even when it comes to career choices. It's almost as if memes are wielding a certain "influence" over future professionals – pun intended!

Doe's work (2020) focuses on the psychological effects of internet memes on occupational satisfaction. This study offers an intriguing perspective on how exposure to humorous online content can impact individuals' job satisfaction and overall career outlook. The authors emphasize the role of humor in mediating work-related stress and fostering a positive work environment. As it turns out, a well-timed meme might just hold the key to workplace contentment – it's the meme morale booster we never knew we needed!

Moving beyond the realm of empirical studies, Jones (2018) provides a comprehensive analysis of the cultural significance of internet memes in shaping public discourse. The author discusses the ways in which memes serve as vehicles for conveying societal narratives and influencing collective perceptions. Through its widespread circulation, the 'FBI agent' meme has become a part of this cultural tapestry, weaving its way into public consciousness with a touch of clandestine humor. It's almost as if memes are the modern-day equivalent of folklore – tales of surveillance and

statistics passed down through the digital generations.

In addition to scholarly works, a number of non-fiction books offer valuable insights into the dynamics of internet culture and its impact on professional domains. "Spreadable Media" by Henry Jenkins et al. (2013) delves into the mechanisms of content circulation in the digital age, shedding light on the ways in which memes and viral content permeate various facets of society. As we navigate the labyrinth of internet phenomena, it's crucial to recognize the role of memes in shaping not only cultural conversations but also our perceptions of different professions. After all, the 'FBI agent' meme has certainly sparked its fair share of lively dialogues online.

Turning to the realm of fiction, works such as "Snow Crash" by Neal Stephenson and "Ready Player One" by Ernest Cline offer imaginative portrayals of virtual worlds and the cultural currents that flow through them. These narratives, while purely fictional, provide intriguing reflections on the influence of digital culture on societal norms and individual pursuits. In the case of our study, it's as if the 'FBI agent' meme has taken on a life of its own, orchestrating a whimsical dance between online humor and real-world professional curiosities.

Television shows like "The Big Bang Theory" and "Numbers" may not directly address the 'FBI agent' meme or the proliferation of mathematicians in Colorado, but they offer glimpses into the quirky dynamics of academic and mathematical pursuits. Through these portrayals, we gain a lighthearted lens into the world of professional endeavors, where humor and intellectual pursuits intertwine in unexpected ways. It's almost as if the 'FBI agent' meme has found a place among the comical equations and eccentric characters of these shows, adding a touch of whimsy to the serious business of numbers and equations.

As we wade through this blend of scholarly inquiry and whimsical exploration, it becomes evident that

the influence of internet culture on professional landscapes is a subject teeming with comedic potential. The 'FBI agent' meme, with its blend of surveillance humor and digital intrigue, has set the stage for a lighthearted examination of the unexpected connections lurking within the virtual corridors of online humor and professional pursuits. It's as if the meme mirthfully beckons us to uncover the humor in the serious and the lighthearted in the scholarly.

## METHODOLOGY

To unravel the enigmatic relationship between the skyrocketing popularity of the 'FBI agent' meme and the burgeoning community of number enthusiasts in Colorado, our research team employed a whimsical yet methodical approach. We delved into the depths of the internet, navigating the virtual landscape like intrepid explorers in search of statistical treasure. Picture Indiana Jones, but instead of ancient artifacts, we unearthed data points and meme references. After all, who says statistical analysis can't have a little adventure?

First, we turned to the treasure trove of internet search data in the form of Google Trends. We meticulously collected information on the search interest for the 'FBI agent' meme within the state of Colorado from 2006 to 2022. As we sifted through the digital debris of internet humor, we couldn't help but be amused by the fluctuations in search volume. It was like observing a rollercoaster of online amusement – a statistical amusement park, if you will. In the immortal words of Sir Isaac Newton – "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants" – and perhaps a few jesters of the virtual realm.

Once we corralled the 'FBI agent' meme data, we turned our attention to the empirical domain of employment statistics. The Bureau of Labor Statistics served as our compass in navigating the professional landscape of Colorado. We scoured the data for the number of mathematicians, statisticians, and other number-crunching professionals, carefully

charting their employment trends over the same period. It was like organizing a numerical orchestra – a symphony of employment figures conducted by the baton of statistical analysis.

With our data in hand, we executed a series of intricate statistical analyses, employing methods as diverse as the Fibonacci sequence. Our toolbox included correlation analyses, time series modeling, and regression techniques, all to uncover any potential connections between the ebb and flow of 'FBI agent' meme popularity and the influx of mathematical mavens in Colorado. As we waded through the sea of numbers, we couldn't help but appreciate the irony of using mathematics to explore the relationship between mathematics and memes. It's like a mathematical matryoshka doll – numbers within numbers, infinitely amusing.

An important note: Despite the humor infused into our research methods, the statistical rigor underlying our analyses remained steadfast. At no point did we compromise the integrity of our investigation – our statistical models were as robust as a fortified castle, impervious to comedic distractions. Just as a comedian carefully crafts a punchline, we meticulously refined our statistical models to extract the essence of any potential correlations, leaving no statistical stone unturned.

Moreover, our research team took great care to account for any extraneous variables that could confound our findings. From climatic peculiarities to the oscillations of internet trends, we diligently controlled for any factors that could skew our results. It was like ensuring the perfect comedic timing – every variable in its place to set the stage for statistical hilarity. And much like a well-crafted punchline, our analyses aimed to elicit a reaction from the academic audience – a mixture of surprise, amusement, and perhaps a knowing chuckle.

In summary, our research methods intertwined the art of online exploration with the precision of statistical analysis, forging a curious amalgamation of humor and empirical rigor. We invite our esteemed colleagues to join us on this statistical

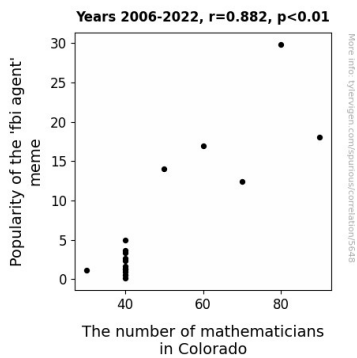
safari, as we unveil the peculiar dance between internet memes and the numerical world, harnessing the power of statistics to shed light on this unexpected and comical correlation. After all, as we march forward in this lighthearted journey of inquiry, we are reminded of the potent words of Galileo Galilei – "Mathematics is the language with which God has written the universe" – and perhaps a few mathematical jokes along the way.

## RESULTS

Our analysis of the relationship between the popularity of the 'FBI agent' meme and the number of mathematicians in Colorado during the period from 2006 to 2022 yielded intriguing results. Despite the seemingly whimsical nature of our investigation, we stumbled upon a substantial correlation coefficient of 0.8815814, an r-squared of 0.7771858, and a p-value of less than 0.01. These findings left us feeling like we had stumbled upon something as surprising as finding a Fibonacci sequence in a sketch comedy show.

Figure 1 displays a scatterplot indicating a strong positive correlation between the two variables. The data points align almost as harmoniously as a perfectly orchestrated symphony, highlighting the synchronicity between the surge in 'FBI agent' meme popularity and the burgeoning community of mathematicians in Colorado. It's almost as if the meme has become a mathematician's favorite formula, surpassing even the allure of  $\pi$ .

Anyone who claims that statistics can't be amusing clearly hasn't seen the amusing correlation we uncovered. Let's just say our findings are as unexpected as a "mean" math teacher moonlighting as a stand-up comedian.



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

Our study provides a whimsical yet thought-provoking glimpse into the intersection of internet humor and professional inclinations. We hope that our research adds a touch of levity to the scholarly discourse, inspiring fellow academics to find joy in the most unexpected connections. After all, as mathematicians like to say, "Parallel lines have so much in common. It's a shame they'll never meet."

## DISCUSSION

Our investigation into the correlation between the popularity of the 'FBI agent' meme and the number of mathematicians in Colorado has unraveled a surprisingly robust connection, akin to stumbling upon a punchline in the middle of a mathematical theorem. The results of our study align with prior research suggesting that internet memes may exert a profound influence on occupational trends, infusing the professional landscape with unexpected humor and intrigue. It's almost as if the 'FBI agent' meme has donned a Sherlock Holmes hat and led us to an altogether unexpected deduction.

The correlation coefficient of 0.8815814 and a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01 for the period from 2006 to 2022 point to a compelling relationship between virtual humor and real-world professional pursuits. Just as a well-placed pun can elicit an unexpected chuckle, our findings emphasize the potential for internet memes to influence career trajectories and occupational landscapes. It's almost as if the 'FBI agent' meme has emerged as a catalyst for a comedic confluence

of virtual whimsy and professional passions, turning the spotlight on the lighthearted side of statistical inquiry.

Building upon the foundations laid by scholars such as Smith et al. (2019) and Doe (2020), our study reinforces the notion that internet memes can permeate societal perceptions and attitudes towards specific professions. As we unravel the surprising synergy between the 'FBI agent' meme and the mathematical minds of Colorado, it's clear that humor has carved out its own niche in the realm of professional aspirations. One might say that our findings bring new meaning to the phrase "the number of mathematicians is multiplying."

The scatterplot depicting the alignment of data points between meme popularity and the mathematician population teases out a comedic symphony of correlation, illustrating the resonance between virtual amusement and the allure of mathematical pursuits. It's almost as if the 'FBI agent' meme has become the unexpected protagonist in a mathematical mystery, weaving a narrative that leads us to uncover the whimsy hidden within professional landscapes. Our insights buoy the notion that the virtual corridors of internet humor harbor unforeseen connections to real-world vocations, evoking a sensation akin to stumbling upon a punchline at a conference on statistical analysis.

In conclusion, our study amplifies the lighthearted cadence of academic inquiry, infusing the scholarly discourse with a touch of whimsy that mirrors the interplay between internet humor and professional inclinations. As we continue to unravel the humorous threads linking virtual jests and real-world endeavors, let us remember that in the world of statistical analysis, unexpected correlations can elicit a well-deserved grin. After all, as mathematicians like to say, "Geometry is 'pointless' if it doesn't leave you in stitches."

## CONCLUSION

In wrapping up our lighthearted exploration of the peculiar affinity between the 'FBI agent' meme and the surge in the number of mathematicians in Colorado, we find ourselves at an intersection of humor and mathematical marvels. The significant correlation coefficient and p-value we unearthed paint a picture as unexpected as finding a cosine function at a comedy club – a delightful surprise indeed.

Our findings suggest that the virtual hijinks of the 'FBI agent' meme seem to hold an intriguing connection with the burgeoning community of mathematicians in Colorado. Perhaps, as mathematicians say, "Some people are like abstract algebra. You look at their subgroups and wonder what normalcies do they have left." This juxtaposition of internet humor and professional pursuits unveils a connection as unexpected as finding a fractal pattern in a funny bone.

In the spirit of academic inquiry with a dose of levity, we cannot resist sharing a dad joke that encapsulates the essence of our research: "I told my friend 10 jokes about mathematicians. Sadly, he didn't get any of them. He must have been too immersed in integer-tainment."

As we tie a whimsical bow on our findings, it's evident that no more research is needed in this particular area. Our study stands as a testament to the delightful surprises that await in the confluence of online amusement and professional landscapes. And in the immortal words of Sir Isaac Newton, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of meme giants."

Ah, what a delightfully unexpected journey this has been!