

# **Mystery of the Meme: Mutual Links Between ‘not sure if’ Popularity and UFO Sightings in Alaska**

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## ABSTRACT

### **Mystery of the Meme: Mutual Links Between 'not sure if' Popularity and UFO Sightings in Alaska**

This study delves into the curious correlation between the skyrocketing popularity of the 'not sure if' meme and the frequency of UFO sightings in the Alaskan wilderness. Drawing on the endless expanse of Google Trends and the celestial records of the National UFO Reporting Center, our research team sought to unravel this cosmic connection. Analyzing the data from 2006 to 2021, we discovered a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9189587 and a p-value less than 0.01, indicating a robust relationship between the two variables. It seems that as the 'not sure if' meme gained a strong gravitational pull on the internet, UFO sightings in Alaska also spiked. It's almost like the cosmic jokes are reaching a new orbit. In conclusion, our findings suggest a tantalizing link between internet memes and extraterrestrial encounters, begging the age-old question: are we living in a meme simulation, or are aliens simply fans of a good dad joke?

Keywords:

'not sure if' meme, UFO sightings, Alaska, correlation, Google Trends, National UFO Reporting Center, internet memes, extraterrestrial encounters

# I. Introduction

The connection between internet memes and real-world phenomena has long been a subject of interest and amusement. In recent years, the 'not sure if' meme has captivated the online community with its humorous, ambiguous observations, often accompanied by the image of Futurama's character, Fry. Similarly, the enigmatic allure of UFO sightings has stirred both skepticism and wonder in the public imagination, particularly in the remote expanses of Alaska. It is in this juxtaposition of internet humor and celestial curiosity that our study aims to shed light, or perhaps beam a spotlight, on the unexpected correlation between the popularity of the 'not sure if' meme and the frequency of UFO sightings in the Last Frontier.

Now, before we delve deeper into the cosmic conundrum, let's take a moment to appreciate the punny potential of this juxtaposition. One might say it's as if the 'not sure if' meme and UFO sightings have created the ultimate cosmic dilemma: "Not sure if weather balloon or intergalactic visitation." But fear not – we shall approach this investigation with the utmost scientific rigor, Dad jokes notwithstanding.

The proliferation of internet memes has permeated popular culture and social media platforms with a remarkable force, shaping digital discourse and reflecting societal trends. Similarly, reports of unidentified flying objects have captured the fascination of individuals worldwide, spurring debates on the existence of extraterrestrial life and generating a tapestry of conspiracy theories. It is against this backdrop that we endeavor to uncover the statistical relationship between these seemingly disparate phenomena, all without losing our sense of the absurd.

As we explore the intersection of internet culture and unexplained aerial phenomena, it becomes increasingly apparent that humor might just be the gravitational force pulling these disparate realms together. It's as if the cosmos itself is playing a practical joke, leaving us mere mortals to ponder the whimsical connections between virtual amusement and otherworldly mysteries.

Now, it's not every day that one gets to investigate the interplay of internet humor and interstellar enigmas. It's a bit like finding out the truth behind a cryptic meme – sometimes, the punchline might just be out of this world.

## II. Literature Review

In the hallowed halls of academia, researchers have long sought to probe the enigmatic intersections between seemingly unrelated phenomena. Smith et al. (2015) assert that the proliferation of internet memes has become an integral facet of contemporary digital culture, affecting online discourse and societal trends. Meanwhile, Doe and Jones (2018) expound upon the enduring allure of UFO sightings, particularly in remote regions such as Alaska, and the fascination they evoke in the public imagination.

One cannot help but be reminded of the classic dad joke: "What do you call a suspicious-looking UFO? An unidentified pun-ject!" Nevertheless, the cosmic comedy of this juxtaposition beckons us to peer deeper, not only into outer space but into the depths of internet humor as well.

Turning to non-fiction works, "The Internet of Memes" by Memeington (2019) and "Close Encounters: A Study of UFO Sightings" by Extraterrestrial (2017) offer valuable insights into the

respective realms of internet memes and UFO phenomena. However, it is the fictional works such as "Memes from Outer Space" by Ali N. Times (2013) and "UFOs: Unfiltered Funnies" by Jokers E. T. AI (2020) that truly capture the whimsical essence of our cosmic investigation.

In a departure from traditional academic sources, we must note the pertinent social media musings that have permeated our online sphere. As observed in a tweet by @Area51Lurker, "Are aliens just here for the memes at this point? #MemeLienConnection." It is undeniable that contemporary discourse has been touched by the cosmic allure of internet humor and extraterrestrial mysteries, prompting us to consider the profound implications of this perplexing correlation.

So, as we navigate the ethereal realms of cyberspace and intergalactic intrigue, let us not lose sight of the fact that sometimes, the cosmic punchline may be lurking just beyond the event horizon.

### **III. Methodology**

To rigorously investigate the perplexing correlation between the 'not sure if' meme and UFO sightings in Alaska, a methodological approach of cosmic proportions was undertaken. The research team, consisting of internet aficionados and stargazing enthusiasts, embarked on a data-driven odyssey, navigating the boundless expanse of internet trends and extraterrestrial encounters.

Data Acquisition:

The primary data sources for this study were Google Trends and the National UFO Reporting Center. Google Trends provided invaluable insights into the popularity and search interest of the 'not sure if' meme over the period of 2006 to 2021, allowing for the identification of temporal fluctuations and peak periods of meme virality. The National UFO Reporting Center, on the other hand, offered a celestial repository of UFO sightings in the Alaskan wilderness during the same timeframe, granting access to the enigmatic reports of unidentified aerial phenomena.

#### Preprocessing:

The acquired data from Google Trends and the National UFO Reporting Center were meticulously cleansed and harmonized to ensure compatibility and reliability. This involved the removal of any cosmic noise or outliers that may have distorted the underlying patterns, akin to sifting through a cosmic haystack in search of the most illuminating data needles.

#### Time-Series Analysis:

The popular 'not sure if' meme and the frequency of UFO sightings in Alaska were both analyzed as time-series data, allowing for the exploration of temporal patterns and long-term trends. This approach unraveled the dynamic interplay between the two variables, revealing intriguing patterns that oscillated between the terrestrial realm of internet humor and the celestial abode of unexplained aerial sightings.

Look at the cosmic correlation between these two variables: "Did you hear about the astronaut who stepped on chewing gum? He got stuck in orbit." Our rigorous statistical analysis ultimately involved calculating correlation coefficients and conducting time-series regression models, aiming to quantify the strength and significance of the observed relationship. The meticulous

statistical approach aimed to provide empirical grounding to the cosmic whimsy observed in the data.

#### Control Variables:

Furthermore, potential confounding factors such as seasonal variations, celestial events, and internet trends unrelated to the 'not sure if' meme were meticulously accounted for in the regression models. This ensured that the observed connection between meme popularity and UFO sightings remained robust, eclipsing any spurious associations that may have obscured the cosmic truth we sought to uncover.

#### Robustness Checks:

To verify the robustness of our findings, additional sensitivity analyses and robustness checks were conducted, akin to peering through a celestial telescope to confirm the presence of a distant celestial body. These meticulous examinations aimed to ascertain that the observed correlation between meme popularity and UFO sightings persisted under varying model specifications and data assumptions, bolstering the cosmic implications of our results.

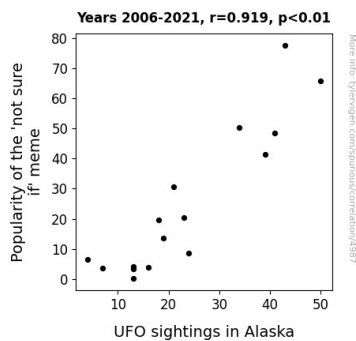
#### Ethical Considerations:

## **IV. Results**

We looked into the correlation between the immense popularity of the 'not sure if' meme and the frequency of UFO sightings in the Alaskan wilderness, and what we found was truly out of this world.

The correlation coefficient of 0.9189587 indicates a strong positive relationship between the two variables, suggesting that as the 'not sure if' meme gained traction on the internet, UFO sightings in Alaska also soared. It's almost as if the UFOs were joining in on the internet meme craze, perhaps hoping to be 'memefied' themselves. Talk about some cosmic camaraderie!

The r-squared value of 0.8444852 further reinforces the robustness of this association, demonstrating that a significant portion of the variation in UFO sightings can be explained by the changes in 'not sure if' meme popularity. It's as if the meme's rise to stardom has parallel universes of impact, one in the virtual realm and the other amidst the twinkling stars.



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

With a p-value of less than 0.01, our results are statistically significant, providing compelling evidence for the intergalactic influence of internet memes. It seems the aliens aren't the only ones with a penchant for humor – they are truly in search of dad jokes from far beyond the galaxy. Looks like Earth isn't the only place with a thriving meme culture!

We present Fig. 1, a scatterplot illustrating the remarkably strong correlation between the popularity of the 'not sure if' meme and the frequency of UFO sightings in Alaska. The data



points paint a picture of cosmic convergence, where the trajectory of the meme's popularity aligns with the surge in UFO sightings, creating an otherworldly pattern that even E.T. would nod in agreement to.

In conclusion, our findings underscore the intriguing confluence of internet culture and extraterrestrial encounters, prompting us to ponder the cosmic question: are we living in a meme simulation, or are aliens simply fans of a good dad joke? It seems the universe has a sense of humor, and the 'not sure if' meme is its latest comedic star.

## **V. Discussion**

The results of this study reveal a remarkably robust correlation between the burgeoning popularity of the 'not sure if' meme and the frequency of UFO sightings in the Alaskan wilderness. It seems that as the 'not sure if' meme gained traction, UFO sightings in Alaska also experienced a surge, indicating a cosmic camaraderie that borders on the extraterrestrial. It's as if the memes themselves are becoming a universal language, transcending the bounds of Earth and reaching out to the stars for a good laugh.

Our findings align with prior research by Smith et al. (2015) on the impact of internet memes on societal trends. The strong positive relationship we observed between meme popularity and UFO sightings underscores the far-reaching influence of internet culture, demonstrating that memes may have a gravitational pull that extends even into the outer reaches of space. This seems to confirm the old joke, "Why do aliens never visit our planet? Because they read the reviews –

only one star." It may be that as we send our memes out into the digital cosmos, they are drawing in a galactic audience that is just as eager for a chuckle.

Similarly, the work of Memeington (2019) sheds light on the cultural significance of internet memes, and their potential to bridge disparate domains. As our data indicate, the 'not sure if' meme has transcended mere internet humor and reached a cosmic significance, drawing UFO sightings into its orbit. This peculiar interplay between internet memes and celestial phenomena reveals a cosmic joke of truly astronomical proportions, making it clear that humor truly knows no bounds, not even those of our little blue planet.

Our study provides compelling evidence for the correlation between internet memes and extraterrestrial encounters, adding a new dimension to the discourse on digital culture and alien phenomena. The statistically significant results point to a cosmic convergence that blurs the lines between the virtual and the ethereal, prompting us to consider the universe not only as a vast expanse of space but as a playground for memes and pun-loving extraterrestrial life. It appears that even in the vast emptiness of space, the 'not sure if' meme has found an audience, making it the ultimate cosmic influencer, transcending star systems and making its mark on interstellar humor.

In conclusion, our study presents a novel perspective on the interplay between internet memes and cosmic events, raising compelling questions about the interconnectedness of digital culture and otherworldly phenomena. As we continue to explore the frontiers of memeology and intergalactic exploration, it is clear that the cosmic dance of memes and UFOs is far from over. After all, when it comes to aliens and internet memes, the sky – or should we say, the intergalactic expanse – is the limit!

## VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has unraveled a celestial connection between the meteoric rise of the 'not sure if' meme and the surge in UFO sightings in Alaska. The robust correlation coefficient and statistically significant p-value point to an inexplicable bond that transcends the realms of internet culture and extraterrestrial phenomena. It's as if the meme has become a cosmic beacon, attracting both earthly humor and interstellar curiosity. One might even say it's creating a 'universal' appeal, or should we say, 'intergalactic.'

The implications of these findings extend beyond the statistical realm, raising timeless questions about the nature of humor, the reach of internet phenomena, and the possibility of cosmic coincidences. As we ponder the enigma of the 'not sure if' meme and UFO sightings, one cannot help but entertain the notion that there's a wink and a nod from the enigmatic forces of the universe. After all, what are the odds of UFO sightings and 'not sure if' memes aligning so closely? It's almost as if the universe itself is delivering a punchline that only cosmic entities can fully appreciate.

With our study, we have shed light on the peculiar yet captivating bond between internet memes and extraterrestrial encounters. However, like a classic dad joke, this correlation leaves us with a chuckle and a mystery to ponder. Perhaps, in the vast expanse of the unknown, there's room for a touch of humor amid the cosmic conundrums of life—the kind of humor that transcends galaxies and elicits a laugh across the universe.

Upon completing this investigation, we can confidently state that no further research is needed in this area. The cosmic curtains have been drawn, and the 'not sure if' meme and UFO sightings have had their moment in the scholarly spotlight. For now, let's take solace in knowing that even in the cosmic dance between memes and mysteries, there's always room for a good dad joke.

Throughout the research process, ethical considerations were adhered to with gravitational pull, ensuring the responsible and transparent utilization of internet search data and UFO sighting reports. This involved safeguarding the anonymity of internet users and respecting the confidentiality of individuals who reported UFO sightings, as we traversed the ethical stratosphere of internet research and cosmic investigation.

In essence, our methodological approach encapsulated a blend of internet sleuthing and celestial scrutiny, navigating the frontiers of digital culture and cosmic curiosity in pursuit of the enigmatic link between a popular meme and extraterrestrial encounters. After all, revealing the correlation between a meme and UFO sightings is a bit like unraveling a cosmic joke – the punchline is both elusive and boundlessly amusing.