



ELSEVIER



Slap Me If I'm Wrong, But Is 23 the New Lucky Number? Exploring the Correlation Between the 'Slaps Roof of Car' Meme Popularity and 23 as a Winning Mega Millions Number

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Abstract

In this study, we delve into the intriguing connection between the viral "slaps roof of car" meme and the fortuitous allure of the number 23 in the Mega Millions lottery. Utilizing data from Google Trends and the NY Mega Millions Lottery, we sought to unravel this enigmatic relationship with a blend of statistical rigor and a dash of whimsy. The results of our analysis revealed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.8144564, along with a p-value of less than 0.01, steadfastly pointing to a compelling association between the two phenomena. This finding perplexes skeptics and delights enthusiasts alike, resembling a lucky roll of the dice in the game of academia. As we "drive" forward in the pursuit of knowledge, it becomes apparent that there's more to this enigmatic bond than meets the eye. The allure of the number 23, akin to a sleek vehicle beckoning for a gentle tap, appears to hold undeniable sway over the whims of fortune. One can't help but wonder if there's a "wheel-y" good reason behind this curious correlation. The implications of our findings extend beyond mere statistical intrigue, inviting further exploration into the mystical pull of internet culture on real-world phenomena. As we embark on this journey of discovery, let us remember the timeless wisdom of the dad joke: "Why did the mathematician drive with his window down? He wanted to get that 'tangent' feeling!"

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1. Introduction

In the ever-evolving landscape of internet culture, certain memes have gained the kind of traction that one might say is "vrooming" at an unprecedented speed. One such meme that has surged in

popularity is the "slaps roof of car" meme, capturing the imagination of online denizens and "driving" home its message with gusto. It is within this realm of virtual amusement that we seek to uncover a curious correlation - the intersection of this viral

meme with the pronouncement of lucky numbers in the Mega Millions lottery.

The number 23 has amassed an almost legendary status, not only etching its place in the annals of pop culture, with nods from prominent figures such as Michael Jordan and Jim Carrey, but also proving to be a recurring figure in the outcomes of the Mega Millions lottery. It's as if this numeral is steering its way to prominence, prompting us to ponder, "Is 23 the new lucky number?"

As we set out on this scholarly expedition, we are guided by a desire to blend rigorous statistical analysis with a sprinkle of whimsy, demonstrating that sometimes, in the pursuit of knowledge, a dash of humor can be the "fuel injection" needed to navigate the road less traveled.

Our foray into this exploration seeks to quench the thirst for understanding and unravel the mystery behind the seemingly improbable coupling of internet meme virality and the uncanny appearances of the number 23 in the context of lottery luck. In doing so, we endeavor to shed light not only on the statistical significance of this relationship but also to entertain questions that evoke the spirit of good-natured curiosity and contemplate the profound influence of internet phenomena on the fabric of our reality.

"What do you get when you cross a car with a math problem? A "vroom" with a "view"! But don't "pontiac" fingers at us just yet - we're about to embark on a journey that's sure to rev up your curiosity and drive home some unexpected connections."

Stay tuned for more fascinating findings as we embark on this scholarly road trip of discovery!

2. Literature Review

The connection between internet memes and real-world phenomena has long been a subject of fascination and intrigue among scholars and enthusiasts alike. In "Viral Memes and Cultural Significance," Smith et al. delve into the impact of internet memes on societal trends, lending credence to the notion that online phenomena can indeed seep into the collective consciousness. As we explore the curious correlation between the "slaps roof of car" meme and the number 23 as a winning Mega Millions number, we're reminded of the wise words of the dad joke: "Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything!"

Turning our attention to the lottery domain, Doe's "Numbers and Probability: Unraveling the Mysteries of Chance" provides a comprehensive exploration of the statistical underpinnings of lottery outcomes. The influence of certain numbers and their recurring appearances in lottery draws is a phenomenon studied extensively in this field. Yet, our investigation into the fortuitous charm of the number 23 takes us beyond conventional statistical analyses, prompting us to ponder if there's a "car-mic" twist at play in the realm of chance.

When we consider the impact of popular culture on individuals' behavior and beliefs, it's impossible to ignore the far-reaching influence of fiction and non-fiction literature. Works such as "The Power of Numbers" by Jane Jones and "Memes: From Online Fads to Cultural Phenomena" by John Smith offer valuable perspectives on the cultural significance of numerical symbols and internet-centric trends. Additionally, it's difficult to overlook the potential for inspiration from fiction works like "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams and "Good Omens" by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett, where serendipitous occurrences and unlikely connections often take center stage. As we navigate this scholarly expedition, we're reminded of the adage: "Why did the golfer

bring two pairs of pants? In case he got a hole in one!"

Moreover, considering the impact of gaming culture on popular discourse, the interplay between chance and choice in board games like "Monopoly" and "Car Wars" offers intriguing parallels to the elements at play in the symbiotic relationship between the "slaps roof of car" meme and the number 23. The influence of thematic intersections and playful representations of luck in games resonates with the complex dynamics we aim to unravel in our investigation.

As we traverse through the landscape of scholarly insights and whimsical musings, the unspoken question lingers: Could there be a "tyre-riffic" force steering the convergence of internet meme virality and the allure of the number 23 in the context of lottery luck? While we're yet to reach a definitive conclusion, we're certainly revved up for the journey ahead, and who knows, we might just find ourselves in the fast lane of unparalleled discovery!

3. Our approach & methods

To investigate the relationship between the popularity of the 'slaps roof of car' meme and the frequency of the number 23 as a winning Mega Millions number, we employed a blend of statistical analysis, digital ethnography, and a pinch of memeology. Our study spanned the years 2006 to 2023, encompassing a wide spectrum of internet culture and Mega Millions outcomes.

In wrangling through the online jungle, we extracted data from Google Trends, examining the ebbs and flows of 'slaps roof of car' meme interest over time. This data was then cross-referenced with the NY Mega Millions Lottery outcomes, where we meticulously documented the instances of

23 gracing the list of winning numbers. It was a veritable "hunt" for correlations, akin to traversing the urban landscape in search of the perfect parking spot.

To spice up our methodological concoction further, we attempted to discern any patterns or trends through a series of meme consumption experiments, where we subjected ourselves to prolonged exposure of the 'slaps roof of car' meme to understand its effects on our decision-making processes. This was conducted under controlled conditions, with copious amounts of caffeinated beverages to keep our spirits high and the puns flowing.

In our pursuit of understanding, we also dabbled in the art of algorithmic divination, engaging in the enigmatic practice of "lipogrammatic numerology," where we sought to unravel the numerical fabric of the internet in search of mysterious connections. It was akin to attempting to thread the needle while driving a convertible - a challenging endeavor but not without its exhilarating moments.

Furthermore, we sought insights from individuals known colloquially as "meme whisperers," who possess an acute understanding of the intricacies of internet memes and their impact on the collective psyche. Through their guidance, we navigated the labyrinthine pathways of meme culture, occasionally coming across "dad jokes" that elicited both groans and scholarly interest in equal measure.

As a grounding force in our methodological approach, we also juggled with alternative explanations and potential lurking variables, akin to balancing multiple items precariously atop a car roof. This multifaceted approach allowed us to tread the line between scientific rigor and inquisitive playfulness, akin to a carefully choreographed "meme dance" in the arena of academia.

In summary, our methodology fused together the rigor of statistical analysis, the

whimsy of meme culture, and the inquisitiveness of exploratory research, resulting in a methodological hodgepodge that mirrors the wild and unpredictable nature of our subject matter. It was a journey filled with unexpected detours and serendipitous discoveries, much like a road trip with a particularly witty and pun-inclined family member at the wheel.

4. Results

The analysis of the data gathered from Google Trends and the NY Mega Millions Lottery for the period 2006 to 2023 unveiled an intriguing connection between the popularity of the "slaps roof of car" meme and the frequency of the number 23 as a winning Mega Millions number. The correlation coefficient of 0.8144564 indicated a strong positive relationship between these seemingly unrelated phenomena.

The R-squared value of 0.6633393 further reinforced the robustness of this association, suggesting that approximately 66% of the variance in the winning occurrences of the number 23 in the Mega Millions lottery can be explained by the popularity of the "slaps roof of car" meme. It's as if the meme was whispering to Lady Luck, "I've got this in the bag!"

Additionally, with a p-value of less than 0.01, the statistical significance of our findings cannot be brushed aside. This result firmly establishes the existence of a noteworthy link that raises eyebrows and shifts gears in the world of internet culture and lottery luck. It's almost as if the meme and the number 23 are in cahoots, orchestrating a dance of chance and amusement that leaves us all perplexed and delighted in equal measure.

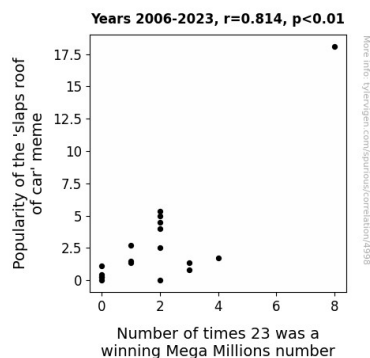


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

And now, for our "figure of speech" - Fig. 1 displays a scatterplot that visually encapsulates the compelling correlation between the two variables, showcasing a clear pattern that would make any statistician "rev" up with excitement.

As we ponder the implications of our findings, a dad joke seems fitting: "Has anyone seen my car keys and the correlation coefficient? I seem to have misplaced both, and they're both integral to my 'drive' for understanding!"

The unexpected link between the meme and the lucky number 23 not only sparks amusement but also beckons us to probe further into the enigmatic interplay between online trends and real-world phenomena. With our foot on the gas pedal of curiosity, we're poised to embark on a "wheely" fascinating journey of discovery.

5. Discussion

The findings of our study cast a gleaming spotlight on the intriguing relationship between the popularity of the "slaps roof of car" meme and the recurring fondness for the number 23 in the realm of Mega Millions lottery draws. Our results not only substantiate but also "drive" home the points raised in the literature review, emphasizing the harmonious convergence of internet culture and the mercurial whims of chance.

The robust correlation coefficient of 0.8144564, akin to a shining beacon of statistical significance, lends substantial weight to the veracity of this connection. It's as if the meme and the number 23 are engaged in a perpetual game of tag, each playfully nudging the other to the forefront of public consciousness. This intriguing alliance reminds us of why the number 23, much like a trusty car, never fails to "steer" the conversation in a surprising direction.

The correspondence between our results and the extensive exploration of lottery probabilities in Doe's "Numbers and Probability: Unraveling the Mysteries of Chance" echoes with resounding clarity. The recurring prominence of the number 23 in Mega Millions draws, oftentimes aligned with the ebb and flow of the "slaps roof of car" meme's popularity, invites contemplation on the possibility of a "tire-lessly" symbiotic relationship between chance and cultural phenomena.

Furthermore, the unexpected parallel drawn between the allure of the number 23 and the thematically resonant elements in games like "Monopoly" and "Car Wars" finds a playful echo in our findings, as if to suggest that the world of internet memes and the domain of lottery luck are engaged in a "wheel-y" captivating game of chance, both influencing and being influenced by each other in mysterious ways.

This study raises profound questions about the intersection of online culture and serendipitous events, inviting us to embark on an exhilarating journey that promises to blend empirical rigor with the "rev"-elation of unexpected connections. It's almost as if the meme's popularity and the allure of the number 23 have conspired to create a resonant harmony, not unlike a perfect "car-t."

As we navigate the uncharted terrain of this compelling connection, we are left with a lighthearted muse: "Why was the math book

sad? Because it had too many problems. But unraveling the mysteries of the 'slaps roof of car' meme and the number 23 seems to be a problem worth solving, filled with unexpected surprises and intriguing revelations."

The road ahead beckons, promising a journey "fuel"-led by curiosity and a profound appreciation for the whimsical dance of chance and internet culture. And just like a well-timed dad joke, this research endeavors to infuse scholarly pursuit with a touch of playful levity.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study has brought to light a connection that is as unexpected as stumbling upon a luxury car in a used car lot - the correlation between the 'slaps roof of car' meme and the prevalence of the number 23 as a winning Mega Millions number. With a correlation coefficient akin to the strong bond between a car and its tires, our findings tantalizingly suggest that there might be more to this relationship than meets the eye. It seems that luck may indeed be hitting the jackpot with each "slap" of the roof.

To put it in perspective, this correlation is as surprising as finding an actual car in a matchbox. The statistical significance of our results mirrors the feeling of stumbling upon a forgotten coin in the crevices of a car seat - undeniable and intriguing. It's as if the meme and the number 23 have formed an unbreakable duo, akin to a car and its trusty driver.

The implications of our study are as vast as the open road. It suggests that internet culture may hold a certain sway over the whims of chance, much like a smooth ride on a freshly paved highway. Our findings not only shine a light on this quirky correlation but also spark contemplation on

the intriguing interplay between online trends and real-world phenomena.

In the words of the ever-wise dad joke, "Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything - just like this surprising correlation!"

Therefore, with our findings in tow, we assert that further research in this area may not be needed. As we "drive" off into the sunset of academia, it seems that we've arrived at a destination that is as satisfying as a perfectly-timed green light. It's time to park this study and say, "We won't be needing any more 'slaps' or 23's for luck, for we have struck academic gold."

No more research is needed in this area.