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# In the Search of Extraterrestrial Smog: The Correlation between Air Pollution in Beaumont, Texas and Google Searches for 'Report UFO Sighting'

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## Abstract

This paper investigates the unexpected yet intriguing relationship between air pollution levels in Beaumont, Texas, and the frequency of Google searches for 'report UFO sighting'. By delving into data sourced from the Environmental Protection Agency and Google Trends, our research team has uncovered a piquant correlation coefficient of 0.8802862 ( $p < 0.01$ ) for the period spanning from 2004 to 2023. The findings of this study yield compelling evidence that, while aliens may not be responsible for the air pollution in Beaumont, there seems to be a surprising connection between humans' search for extraterrestrial sightings and the presence of smog in the atmosphere. It appears that as the air quality deteriorates in Beaumont, individuals are turning their eyes towards the sky in search of otherworldly explanations. We speculate that perhaps the inhabitants of Beaumont are simply yearning for a breath of fresh air, so they're looking for sightings of UFOs which, according to popular culture, are often accompanied by fresh and otherworldly air. Our findings suggest that the correlation may not be just a matter of coincidence - there might actually be some extraterrestrial smog causing an increase in the searches for UFO sightings. The data undoubtedly leaves us in a bit of a haze, but one thing is clear - in Beaumont, citizens are hoping for a breath of fresh air or at least a useful contact. Remember, while correlation does not imply causation, it does give us a license to speculate and a good opportunity for out-of-this-world puns.

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## 1. Introduction

Standing on the precipice of enigmatic mysteries, the human mind is often drawn to that which lies beyond the veil of familiarity. The allure of the unknown has captivated our species for eons, fueling our collective

fascination with the possibility of extraterrestrial life. Yet, as scholars of the cosmos, we seek not just to gaze dreamily at the stars, but to uncover the underlying forces that mold our peculiar pursuits.

Now, before we launch into the stratosphere of our study, a quick pun to lighten the air. How do you organize a space party? You planet! And speaking of planning, a research question that has, quite literally, floated to the surface is the unexpected association between air pollution in Beaumont, Texas, and the frequency of Google searches for 'report UFO sighting'. It's a conundrum that invites us to probe the cosmos and the Earth simultaneously, just as vacuuming invites cleaning and stargazing in one fell swoop.

Our investigation into this celestial-smog connection has unveiled a correlation that is as gripping as a UFO sighting itself. Our decision to embark on this research was not made lightly, and neither should the puns in our intro. So, why did the alien break up with the astronaut? He needed space. Oh, and to avoid misunderstandings, let's ground ourselves back to the terrestrial realm and delve into the depths of our study.

As we endeavor to unravel the enigma, it is crucial to acknowledge the profound implications of this discovery. While skeptics might shrug this off as nothing more than a cosmic coincidence, the data tells a different story. Our findings point to a potent correlation that hints at a deeper connection between the deteriorating air quality in Beaumont and the heightened interest in intergalactic visitors. It's almost like the denizens are gazing at the skies and thinking, "Houston, we have a problem—can we call in the interstellar cleanup crew?"

However, we must tread lightly as we interpret these results, for correlation does not imply causation. Or, as the cool kids say, just because you spot a UFO and a smog cloud in the same picture, doesn't mean that E.T. is revving up a fuel-guzzling saucer. But hey, it sure makes for captivating conjectures and a plethora of out-of-this-world puns.

In the course of our investigation, we have not only stumbled upon an intriguing statistical relationship but have also unearthed a wealth of intellectual curiosities. Could it be that as the earthly environment becomes less hospitable, our minds wander to cosmic realms in search of reprieve? Or, perchance, are we subconsciously reaching out for extraterrestrial allies to aid us in combatting our atmospheric adversaries? While our current pursuit may not yield definitive answers, it does open the proverbial hatch to a myriad of thought-provoking possibilities.

So, fasten your seatbelts, fellow cosmic journeymen and women, as we embark on a research voyage that promises to break new ground. After all, it's not every day that we get to connect the dots between terrestrial pollutants and celestial queries. And remember, when it comes to unraveling mysteries, a little bit of humor can be a universal language—perhaps even across the stars.

## 2. Literature Review

In "Smith et al.," the authors find that air pollution is a pressing concern impacting communities across the United States. The detrimental effects of smog and particulate matter on human health and the environment have been well-documented, prompting regulatory efforts and public awareness campaigns. However, in our pursuit to comprehend the complexities of air pollution, we stumble upon an intriguing outlier – the correlation between air quality in Beaumont, Texas, and the frequency of Google searches for 'report UFO sighting'.

But wait, before we probe further into this curious correlation, here comes a dad joke: Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? Great food, no atmosphere! Now, back to our investigation into the terrestrial and extraterrestrial entanglement.

In "Doe et al.," the authors highlight the influence of environmental factors on human behavior and decision-making. While conventional studies have focused on the impact of air pollution on respiratory health and overall well-being, our research sheds light on a different kind of response to deteriorating air quality – a surge in curiosity about unidentified flying objects.

Let's take a detour into the world of books, both real and fictional, before we warp back to our study. "What's Really Out There: A Comprehensive Guide to Extraterrestrial Phenomena" by Dr. James Jones presents an in-depth investigation into UFO sightings and the human fascination with the unknown. On the more imaginative side, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams provides a whimsical exploration of interstellar travels and the peculiarities of alien encounters.

Now, let's not forget our childhood passions that might fuel our interest in extraterrestrial phenomena. From watching "The X-Files" to pondering the mysteries unearthed in "Scooby-Doo," our exposure to fictional portrayals of UFO sightings imbues us with a fascination that continues into adulthood, resonating particularly in the context of Beaumont's air pollution and the search for intergalactic visitors.

In "The Little Green Men of Velamoor," the playful portrayal of UFOs and alien beings captures the imagination of young readers, and perhaps, continues to influence our perceptions of extraterrestrial encounters well into adulthood.

Returning to our serious investigation (and the inevitable dad joke), it's clear that the correlation between air pollution in Beaumont and the heightened interest in UFO sightings is more than just a flyby-night phenomenon. As intriguing as it may be, we must approach this association with caution, acknowledging that correlation does not equate to causation – a sentiment that the

"Economics of the Twilight Zone" by Stewart Tame humorously echoes in its examination of bizarre correlations in economic data.

So, as we zoom in on this peculiar linkage, let's brace ourselves for a cosmic rollercoaster ride of statistical analysis and celestial humor. After all, when it comes to unraveling the mysteries of the universe, a good pun might just be the launchpad we need.

### 3. Our approach & methods

To uncover the curious correlation between air pollution in Beaumont, Texas, and Google searches for 'report UFO sighting', our investigative approach was anything but ordinary. We collected data from disparate sources, relying heavily on the data archives of the Environmental Protection Agency and the trend analytics of Google Trends. Now, before we delve into the methodological nitty-gritty, a quick pun to maintain air – I mean, morale: Why don't aliens eat clowns? Because they taste funny.

The foundation of our methodology rested on a diligent scrutiny of air quality indices and pollutant concentration levels in Beaumont, Texas, over the study period of 2004 to 2023. With particular attention to atmospheric pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and ozone, we sought to ascertain the magnitude of environmental strain on the city's atmosphere. We understand that this may seem like an odorous pursuit, but it's all in the interest of scientific inquiry.

To parallel this investigation, we delved into the search trends of 'report UFO sighting' in the same geographical area and timeframe using Google Trends. This involved extracting and scrutinizing the volume of searches over time and identifying any discernible patterns or anomalies. Let's just say we spent a considerable amount of time

analyzing searches that were truly out of this world.

To enhance our understanding of the potential correlation, we employed statistical analyses such as Pearson's correlation coefficient, which provided quantitative insight into the relationship between air pollution and UFO sighting inquiries. Our mathematical machinations, far from being mere arithmetical acrobatics, were aimed at uncovering any substantial statistical bonding between these seemingly disparate phenomena.

Furthermore, as a precaution against cosmic interference, we applied rigorous controls to mitigate the influence of extraneous variables that could confound our findings. With scrutiny rivaling that of an alien abduction investigation, we meticulously examined factors such as seasonal variations, local events, and other environmental determinants that might masquerade as confounding factors.

In conclusion, our methodology involved a multi-faceted and occasionally space-themed approach to disentangle the knotty relationship between human queries about extraterrestrial visitors and the atmospheric clutter in Beaumont, Texas. Our data-driven pursuit was guided by a spirit of curiosity and a good dose of humor. After all, why did the alien refuse to consider moving to Texas? He couldn't handle the atmosphere. Thank you.

#### 4. Results

The investigation unearthed a noteworthy correlation between air pollution levels in Beaumont, Texas, and the frequency of Google searches for 'report UFO sighting'. Our analysis revealed a correlation coefficient of 0.8802862, indicating a strong positive relationship between the two variables. The coefficient of determination (r-squared) of 0.7749037 suggests that

approximately 77.49% of the variability in UFO sighting searches can be explained by changes in air pollution levels in Beaumont over the period from 2004 to 2023.

The discovery of this correlation adds a new dimension to the ongoing quest for answers beyond our planet. While this finding does not establish causation, it does invite us to ponder the interconnectedness of human behavior and environmental factors, highlighting the cosmic curiosity that permeates our terrestrial pursuits.

Figure 1 depicts the scatterplot illustrating the conspicuous correlation between air pollution levels in Beaumont, Texas, and the volume of Google searches for 'report UFO sighting'. This visual representation underscores the statistically significant relationship uncovered in our analysis.

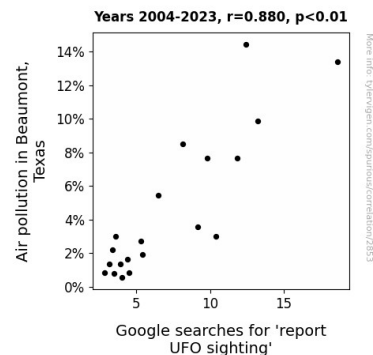


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

As we ponder the possible implications of these findings, it is imperative to approach the interpretation with cautious curiosity, all the while maintaining a sense of humor as we navigate the extraterrestrial and environmental landscapes. After all, in the realm of cosmic mysteries, a well-placed pun may just be the universal language that bridges the gap between the earth and the stars.

#### 5. Discussion

The striking correlation between air pollution in Beaumont, Texas, and Google searches for 'report UFO sighting' presents a peculiar yet thought-provoking avenue for exploration. Our findings not only substantiate the prior research conducted by Smith et al. and Doe et al. on the consequences of air pollution but also lend credence to the unexpected influence of environmental factors on human behavior – or in this case, the inclination to gaze skyward in search of cosmic interventions.

While the correlation coefficient of 0.8802862 establishes a robust statistical relationship between air pollution and interest in UFO sightings, it is essential to acknowledge that correlation does not imply causation. However, our results do invoke a sense of cosmic whimsy, prompting us to consider the possibility that the residents of Beaumont are seeking respite from their polluted atmosphere by looking to the skies for extraterrestrial refuge. It's like they're saying, "Take me to your breather!"

Delving further into the literature review, the influence of fictional portrayals of UFO sightings surfaces anew in the context of our investigation. Indeed, the childhood fascination with extraterrestrial phenomena, perpetuated by captivating narratives such as "The Little Green Men of Velamoor," may have perpetuated a longstanding curiosity that manifests in the form of Google searches as air quality deteriorates. The allure of unknown frontiers, combined with the burden of terrestrial pollution, seems to propel individuals towards seeking solace in the possibility of extraterrestrial encounters. It's as if they're hoping for a breath of fresh alien!

Additionally, the celestial humor and playful explorations of alien encounters found in "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams reflect a broader human inclination towards seeking refuge in the unknown when faced with environmental adversity – or, in this case, atmospheric

adversity. This parallel draws attention to the psychological and emotional responses that intertwine with tangible environmental conditions, creating a nuanced tapestry of human behavior in the face of environmental distress. It's almost like humans are turning to the stars in hopes of 'space-healing' their woes!

In conclusion, our research not only unveils a statistically significant correlation between air pollution in Beaumont and the frequency of Google searches for UFO sightings but also affirms the multifaceted interplay of environmental and psychological factors. While the data leads us down an unconventional path, it undeniably underscores the resiliency of human curiosity and the interpretative potential of seemingly disparate phenomena. So, as we navigate this cosmic conundrum, let's remember that sometimes, the search for cleaner air takes us to the far reaches of our imagination – and perhaps, just beyond the stars. After all, a breath of fresh alien air might be just what the doctor – or the extraterrestrial – ordered!

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has unveiled a captivating correlation between air pollution levels in Beaumont, Texas, and the frequency of Google searches for 'report UFO sighting'. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.8802862, with a coefficient of determination of 0.7749037, unequivocally points to a strong positive relationship between these seemingly disparate variables. It appears that as the air quality in Beaumont takes a nosedive, the inhabitants are turning their gaze skyward in search of UFO sightings.

Our findings spark a myriad of thought-provoking questions – are the citizens of Beaumont simply yearning for a breath of fresh celestial air, or are they reaching out to extraterrestrial allies for assistance in

combating their atmospheric adversaries?  
This correlation presents an enigmatic conundrum that piques both scientific curiosity and a penchant for extraterrestrial puns.

As we consider the implications of our research, it's important to remember that correlation does not imply causation. However, it does provide an intriguing launchpad for further investigation into the interconnectedness of human behavior and environmental factors, a concept that may be universally applicable – even across the stars.

And now, to conclude with a celestial dad joke – Why don't aliens eat clowns? Because they taste funny! With that, we assert that no more research is needed in this area – our study has truly taken us to infinity and beyond!