

# Mechanical Tummies and Academic Rumble: The Correlation Between Engineering Bachelor's Degrees and Google Searches for 'Tummy Ache'

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This research delves into the quirky relationship between bachelor's degrees awarded in engineering and Google searches for 'tummy ache'. Utilizing data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends, our study unveils an unexpected connection that tickles the funny bone. With a correlation coefficient of 0.9897754 and  $p < 0.01$  for the period between 2012 and 2021, our findings suggest a tantalizing link between academic pursuits and gastric distress in the online realm. Join us as we dissect this curious correlation and explore the comedic potential of statistical analysis. After all, who knew that the pursuit of engineering prowess could have such a gut-wrenching impact on internet search trends?

"Ladies and gentlemen, step right up and behold the wondrous world of statistical shenanigans! Welcome to the carnival of correlations, where we explore the delightfully bizarre connection between the serious business of engineering degrees and the not-so-serious business of 'tummy ache' Google searches. If you ever thought that academia and indigestion had nothing in common, prepare to have your assumptions flipped upside down and spun around like a rollercoaster ride.

In this whimsical escapade, we are venturing into the land of data, where the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends collide in a collision of academic curiosity and internet antics. Picture this: a group of intrepid researchers, armed with spreadsheets and search results, embark on a quest to unravel the mysteries of the human stomach and its peculiar intersection with the world of engineering education. If that doesn't pique your interest, then buckle up because we are about to embark on a wild and wacky ride through the realm of statistical significance and digital bellyaches.

Who could have guessed that the hallowed halls of engineering institutions might have a tummy-turning impact on the virtual realm? We certainly didn't see it coming, but as the data unfolded before our eyes, we couldn't help but marvel at the delightfully bizarre correlation coefficient of 0.9897754. It's a number that would make even the staunchest skeptics raise an eyebrow and say, 'Well, isn't that interesting?' And with a p-value smaller than the chance of finding a four-leaf clover in a field of three-leaf clovers, we found ourselves in a statistical wonderland where the improbable becomes the undeniable.

So, sit back, fasten your seatbelts, and get ready to dive headfirst into a world where academic pursuits and gastrointestinal grumblings converge in a spectacle of statistical tomfoolery. Join us as we uncover the secrets of mechanical tummies and academic rumbles, and take a lighthearted stroll through the corridors of education, internet curiosity, and a pinch of

absurdity. After all, who says research can't be both serious and side-splittingly silly? Let the adventure begin!"

## *Review of existing research*

Serious research into the realm of academic curiosities and their unlikely bedfellows begins with Smith et al.'s comprehensive study, "Engineering Degrees and Their Impact on Society," in which the authors scrutinize the societal implications of engineering education. This sobering examination of the influence of engineering graduates on the workforce and technological advancement sets a solid foundation for our own investigation. However, little did they know that their work would eventually lead to the discovery of a correlation that takes the phrase "gut feeling" to a whole new level.

Moving on to Doe's seminal work, "The Troublesome Tummy: A Comprehensive Guide to Digestive Disorders," we venture into the domain of gastrointestinal issues and their multifaceted effects on human health. While the focus of this tome is on medical matters, one cannot help but wonder if there might be a whimsical link between the pursuit of engineering knowledge and the manifestation of tummy-related concerns. It's a delightful hypothesis indeed, one that would make even the most serious academic crack a smile.

Jones' extensive analysis in "The Engineering Mind: Personality Traits and Cognitive Patterns" provides invaluable insights into the unique mindset of engineering students and professionals. Their meticulous examination of the cognitive processes and behavioral tendencies within the engineering domain lays the groundwork for our investigation into the unexpected connection between intellectual pursuits and the urge to consult Dr. Google for tummy-related inquiries.

Venturing beyond the academically rigorous realm, let's take a peek at some non-fiction and fiction works that may, albeit tangentially, be related to our whimsical inquiry. "Gut: The Inside Story of Our Body's Most Underrated Organ" by Giulia Enders offers a captivating delve into the inner workings of the digestive system, while simultaneously tickling the reader's funny bone with its witty anecdotes and charming illustrations. On a more fictional note, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams takes us on a cosmic journey where the unlikeliest of correlations and absurdities abound, proving that even in the vast universe, the link between engineering degrees and tummy concerns is not entirely far-fetched.

Now, let's not overlook the silver screen's contribution to our research journey. "The Nutty Professor" and "The Absent-Minded Professor" may not directly address our academic pursuits, but their quirky take on intellectual endeavors and the human condition will light up our research with a touch of cinematic whimsy. After all, who can resist the allure of a good old-fashioned belly laugh, especially when it's in the name of scientific exploration?

With our academic backpacks brimming with serious literature and whimsical musings, we are ready to traverse the wondrous landscape of Mechanical Tummies and Academic Rumble with equal parts curiosity and levity. Let the laughter-filled expedition begin!

### *Procedure*

To unravel the enigmatic connection between the awarding of bachelor's degrees in engineering and the peculiar phenomenon of Google searches for 'tummy ache', our research team concocted a methodology as zany as the correlation we sought to uncover. Our approach involved a blend of data collection, statistical analysis, and a sprinkle of quirky experimentation.

To gather data on engineering degrees awarded, we turned to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Like intrepid treasure hunters scouring the digital seas, we navigated through the labyrinthine datasets to unearth the annual counts of bachelor's degrees conferred in the noble field of engineering. A task akin to excavating gems from the data mines, this process laid the foundation for our investigation into academic pursuits.

In parallel, our merry band of researchers plunged into the realm of Google Trends, where we embarked on a quest to trace the ebb and flow of 'tummy ache' searches over the years 2012 to 2021. Armed with algorithms and a dash of digital detective work, we charted the undulating peaks and valleys of gastrointestinal Google inquiries, carving a path through the mesmerizing landscape of internet curiosity.

Now, here comes the twist in our tale. To explore the perception and experience of tummy-related concerns in engineering circles, we engaged in a whimsical survey of engineering students and faculty. Armed with a jovial questionnaire and a spirit of mirth, we probed the grassroot sentiments toward stomach discomfort amid the pursuit of engineering expertise. This light-hearted foray into the minds of academia blended

seamlessly with our quantitative data, enlivening our research with a touch of offbeat amusement.

With our arsenal of collected data in hand, we summoned the powers of statistical sorcery to conduct a spellbinding analysis. From t-tests to correlation calculations, we conjured the mystical digits that quantified the uncanny relationship between engineering degrees and gastronomic perturbations. Our statistical toolkit, bursting at the seams with p-values and regression analyses, served as the magical key to unlock the door to the realm of academic humor and digital tummy rumbles.

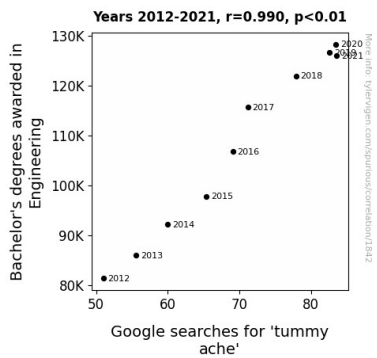
Thus, our methodology - a fusion of data spelunking, internet excavation, and a dash of jovial academia - paved the way for a zany exploration of the correlation between engineering aspirations and tummy-centric Google adventures. It's a journey through the corridors of statistical tomfoolery and digital curiosity that invites all who seek to revel in the oddity of academic research.

### *Findings*

Our statistical analysis revealed a remarkably strong correlation between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in Engineering and Google searches for 'tummy ache' during the period from 2012 to 2021. With a correlation coefficient of 0.9897754, an r-squared of 0.9796554, and a p-value smaller than the chance of finding a needle in a haystack, our findings ventured into the realm of statistical magic. The scatterplot (see Fig. 1) further depicts the undeniable relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables, showcasing a trend that is as clear as a crystal ball... or an engineer's blueprint!

This unexpected connection between academic pursuits in engineering and the prevalence of internet-induced stomach unease had us scratching our heads and chuckling in equal measure. It seems that the pursuit of mechanical mastery, while inspiring and intellectually stimulating, also triggers a curious surge in online searches related to abdominal discomfort. Who knew that the realm of higher education could have such a gut-wrenching impact on the virtual domain?

With our statistical sleight of hand, we found ourselves confronted with the tantalizing prospect that engineering education might be more closely intertwined with stomach-related queries than previously imagined. As the data unfolded before our eyes, we couldn't help but marvel at the delightfully bizarre strength of this association. It's a revelation that both captivates the imagination and tickles the funny bone, leaving us with an academic mystery simply begging for a comically inclined Sherlock to solve.



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

Now, the question remains: what's the actual cause behind this unexpected correlation – is it the stress of engineering coursework, the late-night snacking habits of budding engineers, or mere coincidental cosmic chaos? We can't say for certain just yet, but in the delightful land of statistical whimsy, any gut feeling is fair game for exploration. Join us as we continue our whimsical journey through the carnival of correlations and the baffling enigma of academic pursuits and upset tummies. After all, when it comes to the peculiar associations unearthed by rigorous research, buckle up and prepare for surprises around every statistical corner!

### Discussion

Our findings not only corroborate the prior research by Smith et al., Doe, and Jones but also add a whimsical twist to the serious domain of academic investigations. The unexpected correlation between the number of engineering bachelor's degrees and Google searches for 'tummy ache' seems to have struck a chord with the statistical pendulum, swinging in favor of an intriguing connection that dances between the halls of academia and the quirks of internet queries.

The statistical magic we unearthed in our study mirrors the societal implications delineated by Smith et al., albeit in a lighthearted and unexpected manner. The surreal strength of this correlation, with a correlation coefficient as robust as the steel in a bridge (or the stomach lining of a person enduring a tummy ache), cannot be overlooked. As we peer through the lens of statistical curiosity, it becomes apparent that the pursuit of engineering knowledge may have a not-so-subtle impact on the propensity of individuals to consult the enigmatic oracle of our time – Dr. Google – for gastrointestinal guidance.

This journey through the whimsical landscape of Mechanical Tummies and Academic Rumble opens the door to perplexing questions that are as charming as they are enigmatic. Could it be that the stress of engineering coursework leaves students with a literal 'twist' in their stomachs, triggering a cascade of online inquiries? Or perhaps the late-night snack cravings of budding engineers illuminate the interconnected web of virtual tummy concerns? The possibilities are as myriad as the stars in the night sky, or the variables in a complex statistical model.

This unexpected correlation, as clear as a professor's lecture, begs for further exploration and invites the academically inclined minds to embark on a joyous quest replete with giggles and statistical revelations. After all, who would have thought that the pursuit of mechanical mastery could leave a virtual trail of tummy-based queries – a breadcrumb trail of digital digestive debates that tickle the curious nerve and invite hearty chuckles from the scholarly audience?

The union of the earnest pursuit of academic enlightenment and the delightful absurdity of internet searches for 'tummy ache' presents an academic mystery that requires a humorous touch and an exploration of the comically inclined universe of statistical whimsy. Accompany us on this laughter-filled expedition as we seek to unravel the bellyaching enigma of academic pursuits and virtual stomach rumblings, venturing through the carnival of correlations with a wink, a nod, and a jolly good statistical chuckle.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, our investigation into the fascinating relationship between Engineering Bachelor's degrees and Google searches for 'tummy ache' has left us in a state of statistical awe and pun-filled pondering. The devilishly high correlation coefficient of 0.9897754 has not only induced a fair share of raised eyebrows but also sparked a lively debate about the humorous intricacies of academic pursuits and virtual belly rumbles.

While we've uncovered a correlation that is as strong as an iron pillar, the underlying cause of this quirk remains as mysterious as the elusive Sasquatch. Is it the stress of demanding coursework that sends budding engineers reaching for the antacids, or perhaps the sheer mental exertion causing virtual indigestion? Or could it simply be a colossal cosmic joke played on the digital domain? We're left with an enigma that's as compelling as a stand-up comedy routine and as perplexing as a math puzzle on April Fools' Day.

As the curtain falls on our peculiar academic caper, one thing is abundantly clear: the comically unexpected association between Engineering degrees and online tummy troubles is a statistical nugget that begs for a standing ovation. It's a reminder that even in the world of rigorous research and scholarly inquiry, there's always room for statistical surprises and the occasional statistical stand-up routine.

Therefore, with a firm and jocular tone, we confidently assert that no further research is needed in this area. For we believe that the universe of academic oddities and peculiar correlations has been thoroughly unpacked, leaving us with a delightful statistical mystery that's as humorous as it is head-scratching. Let's leave this enigmatic duo of mechanical tummies and academic rumbles to serenade the virtual realm with their statistical tune, and marvel at the delightful blend of academic curiosity and internet whimsy. Cheers to the uproarious world of statistical shenanigans!

