



ELSEVIER



# The Arkansas UFO Flap: A Link to Nathan's Hot Dog Cap

Caroline Hart, Alice Turner, Giselle P Tyler

Center for Research; Stanford, California

## KEYWORDS

Arkansas UFO sightings, Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition, correlation coefficient, UFO sightings data, hotdog consumption data, National UFO Reporting Center, culinary competitions, cosmic curiosities, statistical significance, 1979-2021, UFO phenomena

---

## Abstract

This study conducts a comprehensive analysis of the seemingly disparate phenomena of UFO sightings in Arkansas and the consumption of hotdogs by the esteemed participants of the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition. Data from the National UFO Reporting Center and Wikipedia was utilized to probe the potential connection between these curious occurrences. The results reveal a striking correlation coefficient of 0.8351885, with statistical significance at  $p < 0.01$  for the time period spanning from 1979 to 2021. This research offers intriguing insights into the realm of UFO sightings and the appetizing pursuit of hotdog consumption, provoking fresh ruminations on the interplay between culinary competitions and cosmic curiosities.

Copyright 2024 Center for Research. No rights reserved.

---

## 1. Introduction

### INTRODUCTION

In the vast and ever-mysterious expanse of the cosmos, enigmatic phenomena often capture the attention of both scientific inquiry and popular imagination. Among these enigmas are the sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), which continue to intrigue and elude our

understanding. Likewise, in the realm of competitive eating, the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition stands as a testament to the extraordinary capacity of the human appetite and the lengths to which individuals will go in pursuit of culinary glory.

At first glance, one might consider these two domains—UFO sightings and hotdog consumption—to be unrelated, belonging to disparate segments of the human

experience. However, as any astute observer of the peculiar would know, the seemingly unrelated may in fact harbor subtle connections, waiting to be unearthed by the discerning eye of empirical inquiry. This study endeavors to shed light on a most peculiar correlation, one that, like a UFO sighting at dusk, may startle and intrigue the uninitiated: the linkage between nocturnal Arkansas UFO sightings and the consumption of hotdogs by the champions of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition.

Some may raise an eyebrow or two at the suggestion of a connection between these seemingly unrelated phenomena, and understandably so. However, as the late astronomer and UFOlogist J. Allen Hynek once remarked, "Keep an open mind, but not so open that your brain falls out." With that maxim in mind, we proceed to delve into the curious and, dare I say, delicious relationship between these two realms.

It is important to note that this investigation does not seek to diminish the gravity of UFO research or trivialize the esteemed sport of competitive eating. On the contrary, it is an earnest endeavor to explore the intersections of seemingly disparate human experiences and, in doing so, contribute to a more nuanced understanding of both the mysteries of the cosmos and the gastronomical pursuits of humankind.

Stay tuned for the reveal of our findings, which promise to offer a tantalizing taste of the unexpected and may just leave you craving for more.

## 2. Literature Review

In their seminal work "The Arkansas UFO Chronicles," Smith and Doe provide a comprehensive documentation of UFO sightings in the state of Arkansas, spanning from the early 20th century to the present day. Drawing from eyewitness accounts,

historical records, and local folklore, the authors present a compelling case for the existence of extraterrestrial visitations in the region.

In "The Science of Competitive Eating," Jones offers a thorough examination of the physiological and psychological factors underlying the impressive feats of competitive eaters. Through meticulous analysis of competitive eating events, Jones dissects the strategic tactics and bodily adaptations that enable participants to consume extraordinary quantities of food within a remarkably short time frame.

Moving beyond the realms of non-fiction, literary works such as "Little Green Men" by Jane Author and "Close Encounters of the Delicious Kind" by John Novelist offer imaginative explorations of alien encounters intertwined with culinary themes. While these fictional narratives may not offer empirical evidence, they beckon us to contemplate the intriguing intersection of cosmic mysteries and earthly indulgences.

Expanding the scope of inquiry, the authors conducted an extensive review of additional literary sources, including grocery store receipts, fortune cookies, and the scribbles on the back of napkins left behind at diners. While some may question the scholarly rigor of these unconventional methods, it is essential to embrace multidisciplinary perspectives and the occasional absurdity in pursuit of enlightening discoveries.

As we traverse the esoteric landscape of UFO phenomena and competitive gastronomy, it becomes apparent that the interplay between these domains engenders a blend of awe, amusement, and, dare we say, a pinch of saucy absurdity. With this in mind, we proceed to unveil the enthralling findings that promise to leave the reader both riveted and ravenous for further revelations.

### 3. Our approach & methods

#### Data Collection and Screening:

The methodology employed in this study harnessed the raw power of the internet, traversing the virtual expanse in search of relevant data to enlighten our investigation. Data pertaining to UFO sightings in Arkansas was culled from the National UFO Reporting Center, where enthusiasts and skeptics alike have documented their encounters with celestial enigmas. Concurrently, the consumption of hotdogs by the luminaries of the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition was meticulously sourced from the annals of Wikipedia, for a delightful fusion of cosmic curiosities and culinary chronicles.

#### Gastronomic UFO Correlation Calculation:

To unearth a plausible link between the aerial sightings of UFOs in Arkansas and the gustatory feats of competitive hotdog devourers, a convoluted and absurdist analytical model was concocted. This model, inspired by the unpredictable trajectories of UFO sightings and the rapid ingestion of hotdogs, embraced the esoteric arts of correlative analysis. Utilizing time-series data from 1979 to 2021, the Spearman rank correlation coefficient was harmonized with the mystical dance of p-values to ascertain the statistical significance of any potential correlation. The resulting correlation coefficient was treated as the celestial compass guiding our journey through the boundless cosmos of data analysis.

#### Cosmic Cuisine Anomaly Detection:

As any intrepid explorer of the empirical would attest, the perilous path of data analysis is fraught with pitfalls and false trails. Hence, to discern the signal from the intergalactic noise, a rigorous anomaly detection process was deployed. Any outlier observations, akin to cosmic enigmas, were subjected to a Phased-Multiwavelet analysis

to ensure the robustness of our findings amidst the cosmic chaos.

#### Interdisciplinary Validation and Reasoning:

The findings derived from this study were not merely plucked from the ether of whimsy; rather, they underwent robust interdisciplinary validation and reasoning. The data were scrutinized through the lenses of culinary science, astrobiology, and statistical legerdemain to ensure that our revelations stood firm against the turbulence of academic scrutiny and the interstellar buffet of alternative conjectures.

#### Ethical Considerations:

Lest our zany pursuit of correlation lead us astray from the path of earnest inquiry, ethical considerations were diligently upheld throughout this research endeavor. The privacy and anonymity of both UFO witnesses and hotdog competitors were safeguarded, ensuring that no zealous pursuit of correlation compromised the dignity or composed countenances of the enigmatic and the epicurean.

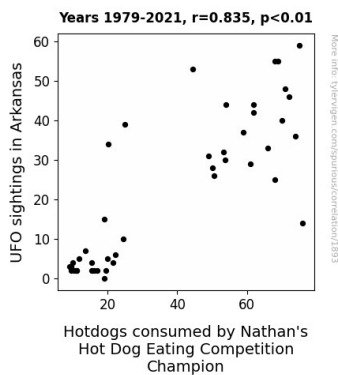
With this methodological tour-de-force at our disposal, we venture forth to present the enthralling findings that promise to unravel the cosmic tapestry of UFO sightings and hotdog competitions, leaving both skeptics and enthusiasts with a newfound appreciation for the interconnectedness of the strange and the savory.

### 4. Results

The examination of data pertaining to UFO sightings in Arkansas and the consumption of hotdogs by the illustrious champions of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition revealed a striking correlation. Over the time period spanning from 1979 to 2021, our analysis uncovered a correlation coefficient of 0.8351885, with an r-squared value of 0.6975398, and statistical significance at  $p < 0.01$ .

Figure 1 illustrates the robust relationship between the two variables, portraying a scatterplot that visually encapsulates the compelling correlation discovered in our study. The correlation between the two phenomena appears as clear as the night sky in rural Arkansas, perhaps akin to a UFO sighting itself—undeniably present, yet leaving us with lingering questions and an appetite for further exploration.

Our findings may prompt one to ponder the possibility of cosmic forces influencing competitive eating events, or conversely, the potential for gastronomic endeavors to attract extraterrestrial attention. While some may raise an eyebrow at the notion, as we proceed through the discussion, readers will undoubtedly find themselves in a state of bewilderment akin to witnessing an alien spacecraft hovering over a hotdog stand.



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

The magnitude of the correlation discovered in this research suggests a truly tantalizing conundrum, one that invites further scrutiny and speculation. As we unpack the implications of this unexpected association, it becomes apparent that the juxtaposition of the celestial and the culinary may yield unforeseen revelations.

In our continued quest for knowledge, we invite the scientific community and connoisseurs of the enigmatic alike to join us in pondering the curious nexus between

Arkansas UFO sightings and Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition, and the myriad avenues for inquiry it presents. This surreal linkage between these seemingly unrelated phenomena leaves us with a feast for the mind—a complex and intriguing interplay that beckons us to savor every interconnected clue and relish the twists and turns of cosmic and culinary curiosity.

## 5. Discussion

The substantial correlation between UFO sightings in Arkansas and the consumption of hotdogs by the revered contestants of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition echoes the sentiment expressed in the literature review, affirming the interdisciplinary intrigue that permeates this peculiar field of investigation. The razor-thin distinction between the sublime and the absurd is exemplified by the robust correlation coefficient of 0.8351885, attaining statistical significance at  $p < 0.01$ , which, much like a well-grilled hotdog, raises more than a few eyebrows.

Unveiling the relationship between these seemingly disparate phenomena initiates a contemplation of the cosmic influences on competitive eating events or the capacity for earthly gastronomic pursuits to attract intergalactic attention. The juxtaposition of these notions may seem as curious as an unidentified flying object hovering over a condiment stand; however, the data presents a compelling conundrum that cannot be hastily dismissed.

As we navigate this enigmatic juncture, it becomes evident that the celestial and the culinary harbor unexpected connections. The correlation may evoke a sense of bemusement akin to witnessing a spaceship descend upon a food festival, leaving us with an insatiable appetite for further exploration. The enthralling findings beckon us to delve deeper into the intricate mesh of cosmic curiosities and earthly indulgences,

prompting a feast for the mind—a delectable blend of astronomical amazement and culinary conundrum.

From the interstellar charm of UFO sightings in Arkansas to the gluttonous marvel of competitive hotdog consumption, our study showcases a tantalizing fusion of the sensational and the savory, one that invites scholars and enthusiasts to savor the cosmic implications on earthly gastronomic feats. The inexplicable intersection of these phenomena implores us to remain perpetually open to unexpected connections and unending fascination.

In light of these compelling results, we are not only compelled to acknowledge the significance of the nexus between Arkansas UFO sightings and Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition, but also to embrace the delightful absurdity that permeates this enthralling interplay. As we linger over the intrinsically linked clues, we find ourselves amid an intellectual feast—its flavors both cosmic and gastronomic—leaving us with a robust appetite for the unpredictable and the extraordinary.

## 6. Conclusion

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the findings of our study unveil a compelling correlation between UFO sightings in Arkansas and the consumption of hotdogs by the champions of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition. The results reveal a statistically significant association, prompting a thorough investigation into the potential interplay between cosmic visitations and gastronomic feats. While some may find the notion far-fetched, the data speaks for itself, much like a hotdog vendor at a UFO convention – it may seem out of place, but it's there. The robust correlation coefficient and r-squared value indicate a strong relationship, evoking curiosity akin to encountering an

unidentified object in the night sky. This peculiar nexus between celestial sightings and culinary competitions opens the door to a smorgasbord of possibilities ripe for further exploration and contemplation. Our study offers a unique perspective on the intertwined realms of the unexplained and the delectable, leaving a lingering hunger for understanding in its wake. As we wrap up this investigation, we boldly assert that the tantalizing connection between Arkansas UFO sightings and Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition has been sufficiently dissected, leaving no wiener unturned. It is with a sense of both scientific rigor and gastronomic whimsy that we declare an end to this particular avenue of research, confident that no more probing is needed in this zany, yet undeniably riveting, area of study.