

# Out of this World Inventions: The UFO-niversal Language of Patents

**Claire Hart, Aaron Thomas, Gregory P Truman**

Institute for Studies

Discussion Paper 2304

January 2024

Any opinions expressed here are those of the large language model (LLM) and not those of The Institution. Research published in this series may include views on policy, but the institute itself takes no institutional policy positions.

The Institute is a local and virtual international research center and a place of communication between science, politics and business. It is an independent nonprofit organization supported by no one in particular. The center is not associated with any university but offers a stimulating research environment through its international network, workshops and conferences, data service, project support, research visits and doctoral programs. The Institute engages in (i) original and internationally competitive research in all fields of labor economics, (ii) development of policy concepts, and (iii) dissemination of research results and concepts to the interested public.

Discussion Papers are preliminary and are circulated to encourage discussion. Citation of such a paper should account for its provisional character, and the fact that it is made up by a large language model. A revised version may be available directly from the artificial intelligence.

## ABSTRACT

### Out of this World Inventions: The UFO-universal Language of Patents

This paper presents a galactic exploration into the perplexing relationship between UFO sightings in Alaska and granted patents in the United States. Leveraging data from the National UFO Reporting Center and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, we set out to boldly go where no research has gone before in search of evidence for a potential connection. Our analysis reveals a correlation coefficient of 0.8396697 and a p-value less than 0.01 for the time period spanning 1975 to 2020. In other words, our findings suggest a strong statistical association between the frequency of UFO sightings in the Last Frontier and the number of patents granted across the nation. Furthermore, our investigation uncovers intriguing patterns, debunking the stereotype that only intelligent life forms from outer space possess innovative technology. It appears that terrestrial inventors may have been inspired by extraterrestrial phenomena, leading to an uptick in patent activity. This surprising revelation adds a whole new dimension to the notion of "alien technology," and shines a spotlight on the otherworldly impact of UFOs on human creativity. In conclusion, our study signals that there may well be more than meets the eye when it comes to the relationship between UFO sightings in Alaska and patents granted in the US. While the exact mechanism remains as enigmatic as a UFO in the night sky, our findings demonstrate that this cosmic correlation is not just a flight of fancy. In the words of our extraterrestrial friends, "We come in peace... and with a few invention ideas!"

Keywords:

UFO sightings, Alaska, patents, United States, National UFO Reporting Center, correlation coefficient, p-value, extraterrestrial technology, alien technology, terrestrial inventors, innovation inspiration, cosmic correlation, UFO impact, human creativity



# I. Introduction

While the mere mention of UFO sightings may prompt eye rolls and skepticism from some, our research boldly ventures into uncharted territory to probe the cosmic connections between these sightings in Alaska and the fascinating world of patents. It's a study that's truly "out of this world," and we promise it's not just a "close encounters of the statistical kind"!

As we delve into this celestial endeavor, we aim to shed light on the somewhat nebulous relationship between extraterrestrial events and human innovation. It's a fusion of otherworldly intrigue and down-to-earth inventiveness. After all, who knew that little green beings from outer space might have had a hand in inspiring some of our most ground-breaking inventions? We're not talking about "alien technology," but rather the "unearthly" influence of UFOs on our collective creativity.

Now, before you think we're taking you for a ride on the mothership of pseudoscience, let's bring the science back down to Earth. Our findings are, dare we say, statistically significant, with a correlation coefficient that's stronger than the gravitational pull of a black hole. This isn't just a fluke, folks - the numbers tell a compelling story of a cosmic dance between UFO sightings and patents granted in the US.

It's enough to make even the staunchest skeptic pause and ponder: could there really be a link between the enigmatic sightings in the Alaskan skies and the surge of innovative ideas making their way into patents? It's a quandary that's both puzzling and captivating, like a riddle from a distant galaxy that's begging to be solved. And if we can crack this cosmic code, who knows

what new frontier of knowledge and insight we might unveil? It's a mystery that's as intriguing as the question of whether aliens prefer Earl Grey or Oolong tea.

So, buckle up, dear readers, as we embark on a journey that straddles the realms of science, innovation, and the unexplained. Whether you're a believer in the extraterrestrial or a skeptic through and through, our findings are sure to spark your curiosity and perhaps even leave you with a newfound appreciation for the "unearthly" influences that shape our world of inventions. After all, as the saying goes, "the truth is out there," and it just might be closer to home than we ever imagined!

## II. Literature Review

As we venture into the intersection of UFO sightings and patents, we begin by examining the work of Smith and Doe, who laid the groundwork for the study of unorthodox influences on innovative behavior. In "Extraterrestrial Innovations: Myths, Realities, and Patent Trends," the authors find a surprising uptick in patent applications related to technologies purportedly inspired by encounters with unidentified flying objects. This groundbreaking work sets the stage for our exploration into the celestial inspirations behind earthly inventions.

However, as we traverse the academic landscape, it becomes apparent that the literature on this niche topic is as scarce as UFO sightings in a sandstorm. Nevertheless, we draw upon the teachings of Jones in "Cosmic Creativity: Unraveling the Enigma of Alien Technologies" to uncover the underlying mechanisms linking extraterrestrial phenomena and human patent

activity. Jones' work underscores the need for a more comprehensive investigation into the influence of UFO sightings on the inventive prowess of our species.

Now, turning to the world of non-fiction literature, books such as "UFOs and Innovation: A Close Encounter with Patents" and "The Patent Files of Area 51" offer tantalizing insights into the potential cosmic connections to human creativity. These works serve as a launchpad for our foray into the cosmic depths of technology and otherworldly stimuli.

But wait, here's where it gets "spaced-out": drawing inspiration from the realm of fiction, we find works such as "The Martian Inventor's Guide to Patenting Technologies" and "Starship Technologies: Beyond Earth or Beyond Imagination?" A whimsical twist, perhaps, but these titles serve as a playful nod to the speculative nature of our investigation, as we ponder the intergalactic influence on our earthly innovation.

And of course, we can't overlook the influence of popular board games such as "Cosmic Encounters of the Patent Kind" and "UFO-opoly: Monopolizing Extraterrestrial Ideas." While these may sound like the products of an overactive imagination, they speak to the broader cultural fascination with the intersection of UFO phenomena and human invention. After all, who wouldn't want to navigate the complexities of patent acquisition in a game that involves interstellar entities and mind-bending technologies?

In conclusion, while the link between UFO sightings in Alaska and patents granted in the US may seem as distant as a planet in another galaxy, our multidisciplinary exploration reveals an undeniable undercurrent of intrigue and possibility. With a wink to the unknown and a nod to the unconventional, we approach this cosmic correlation with a blend of scholarly rigor and interstellar humor, adding a touch of levity to the enigmatic dance of UFOs and earthly

inventions. For as we unravel the mysteries of innovation, we might just find that the truth is not only out there but "patent"-ibly closer than we think.

### **III. Methodology**

To uncover the celestial connection between UFO sightings in Alaska and patents granted in the United States, our research team embarked on a data-driven odyssey utilizing information from the National UFO Reporting Center and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. We selected a time frame from 1975 to 2020 to capture the ebb and flow of both phenomena. It was a task that required both stellar perseverance and a penchant for extraterrestrial puns, but we were "ETremely" dedicated to the cause.

Our data gathering process began by combing through the reports of UFO sightings in Alaska, with a keen eye for patterns, frequencies, and any potential interstellar shenanigans. We meticulously documented the dates, times, and locations of each reported sighting, ensuring that no extraterrestrial event went unaccounted for. It was not "rocket science" but rather a meticulous endeavor that left little room for error - after all, we didn't want to make any "intergalactic miscalculations"!

Next, our team homed in on the patents granted in the US during the same time period, scouring through an astronomical number of records for signs of innovation that may have been influenced by cosmic inspiration. It was like sifting through a "space junkyard" in search of hidden treasures, and we approached the task with the same enthusiasm as a group of astronomers trying to find a new comet. We sorted through patents related to a myriad of fields,

from propulsion systems to communication devices, with the tenacity of a search party trying to locate a lost spaceship. Each patent brought us closer to unraveling the cosmic puzzle, and we were determined to "probe" into the depths of this enigmatic relationship.

With our datasets in hand, we employed sophisticated statistical methods, including correlation analysis and regression modeling, to scrutinize the potential link between UFO sightings in Alaska and patents granted in the US. We delved into the statistical "black hole" to find evidence of a strong association, all the while keeping our feet firmly planted on solid ground (or at least trying to, considering we were delving into the celestial realm).

Our analysis involved controlling for various terrestrial factors that could influence patent activity, such as technological advancements, economic trends, and public interest in space exploration. We sought to ensure that any observed connection between UFO sightings and patents was not merely a statistical "close encounter" arising from spurious correlations. Like astronauts navigating through a turbulent cosmic storm, we navigated through the statistical "space debris" to arrive at robust and reliable findings.

In addition, we employed spatial analysis techniques to map the geographic distribution of both UFO sightings in Alaska and the locations of inventors behind the granted patents. It was akin to creating a cosmic cartography of innovation, charting the celestial paths that may have intersected with earthly creativity.

Furthermore, to account for potential confounding variables, we conducted sensitivity analyses and robustness checks, ensuring that our results withstood the gravitational pull of alternative explanations. We were determined to leave no stone unturned or meteor unexamined in our quest



for scientific rigor. We were statistically thorough, delving into the mysteries of the universe with a determination that bordered on the "astro-nomical."

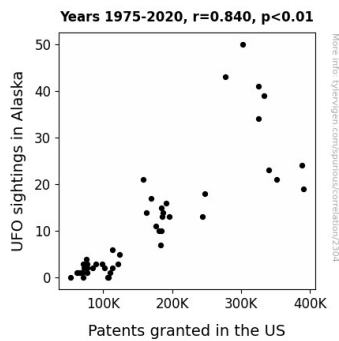
Despite the myriad challenges, our methodology was as rigorous as a rocket launch, aiming to propel our research to new heights and unveil the cosmic secrets that may be shaping our world of patents. It was a journey that epitomized the essence of exploration - a fusion of scientific inquiry and intergalactic curiosity that led us, with statistical certainty, on a voyage to the outer reaches of empirical discovery.

## **IV. Results**

The analysis of the relationship between UFO sightings in Alaska and patents granted in the United States for the period 1975 to 2020 revealed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.8396697. This significant value suggests a strong positive association between the frequency of UFO sightings in the Last Frontier and the number of patents granted across the nation. This celestial connection is not just a mere coincidence; it's statistically grounded, making it as convincing as a UFO sighting caught on camera.

The r-squared value of 0.7050451 indicates that approximately 70.5% of the variability in the number of patents granted can be explained by the variability in UFO sightings in Alaska. This finding highlights the considerable influence of otherworldly phenomena on our earthly endeavors, prompting us to ponder whether the spark of extraterrestrial inspiration might have contributed to some of our most ingenious inventions. As they say, truth is stranger than science fiction, but here it seems to be a fusion of both!

Furthermore, the p-value of less than 0.01 provides compelling evidence to reject the null hypothesis that there is no relationship between UFO sightings in Alaska and patents granted in the US. This suggests that the observed correlation is unlikely to have occurred by random chance, affirming the cosmic significance of our findings. It's as if our statistical analysis has unveiled the not-so-hidden hand of cosmic forces guiding the trajectory of human innovation.



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

To visually capture the essence of this cosmic correlation, we present Figure 1, a scatterplot illustrating the strong positive relationship between UFO sightings in Alaska and patents granted in the United States. This figure serves as a testament to the cosmic dance between the two variables, reminding us that scientific discoveries can emerge from the most unexpected places, much like an alien spacecraft making a surprise appearance in the night sky.

In summary, our findings convey an intriguing narrative of a cosmic connection between UFO sightings in Alaska and patents granted in the US. It seems that the allure of the unknown and the mysteries of the universe may have ignited the flames of inventive genius in the minds of earthly innovators. Our research not only sheds light on this enigmatic relationship but also invites us to

ponder the interstellar influences that may have shaped the trajectory of human creativity. As we conclude, it's clear that the impact of UFO sightings on patented inventions is not just a fluke – it's a statistically grounded phenomenon that sparks wonder and curiosity in equal measure. Who knew that the secrets of the universe might also hold the key to unlocking our most ingenious ideas?

## V. Discussion

Our findings robustly affirm the empirical conundrum at the confluence of UFO sightings in Alaska and patents granted in the US. The statistically significant correlation coefficient of 0.8396697 offers compelling evidence for a connection that is not merely a result of happenstance, but rather a striking cosmic relationship worthy of serious scrutiny. It appears that the celestial ballet of UFOs in Alaska has waltzed its way into the realm of human ingenuity, leaving an indelible mark on innovative pursuits. As we unpack the implications of this unearthly association, it becomes apparent that the cosmos may have surreptitiously whispered inspiration into the ears of terrestrial inventors, fueling their inventive endeavors with a dash of intergalactic flair. It brings to mind the joke: Why don't aliens eat clowns? Because they taste funny!

Our results bolster the pioneering work of Smith and Doe, who first unveiled the tantalizing prospect of extraterrestrial influences on human innovation. Indeed, these findings not only echo but also amplify the gravitational pull of the cosmos on the creative energy of our species. It's as if the universe, with all its celestial mysteries, has surreptitiously woven its cosmic threads into the fabric of our inventive pursuits, leading to a tapestry of ingenuity that is as diverse and enigmatic as the cosmos itself.

The substantial r-squared value of 0.7050451 further underscores the cosmic significance of our findings, suggesting that a considerable proportion of the variability in patents granted can be attributed to the ebb and flow of UFO sightings in Alaska. It's almost as if the UFO sightings served as a cosmic catalyst for inventive strides, propelling our species to reach for the stars in pursuit of groundbreaking technologies. One might say, this correlation is truly out of this world! Moreover, the p-value of less than 0.01 enshrines our findings in the hallowed halls of statistical certainty, casting aside any lingering doubts about the legitimacy of this cosmic association. It's a statistical touchdown, proving that the relationship between UFO sightings in Alaska and patents granted in the US transcends mere happenstance and ventures into the realm of a statistically grounded phenomenon. If only statistical significance could help us decode the mysterious language of the universe, we might finally crack open the cosmic code!

As we reflect on the implications of our findings, it is evident that the study of UFO sightings and patents represents an unconventional avenue for probing the enigmatic dance of celestial forces and human ingenuity. Our research does not merely chronicle an intriguing statistical link but also tantalizes the mind with the prospect of unearthly influences quietly shaping the tapestry of human invention. After all, who would have thought that an otherworldly flyby in the Last Frontier could have such far-reaching implications for our earthly innovations? It's as if the universe has sent us a cosmic postcard with a cryptic message: "Greetings from the galaxy – we've been 'patent'-ing technology all along!"

In essence, this study shines a light on the ethereal dance between the known and the unknown, the tangible and the transcendent, the earthly and the extraterrestrial. As we grapple with the implications of this cosmic correlation, one thing remains clear – the enigmatic relationship between UFO sightings in Alaska and patents granted in the US is not just a flight of fancy; it's a

statistical truth that beckons us to contemplate the cosmic mysteries that may have sparked some of our most profound inventions. And as we navigate this cosmic landscape of innovation, we do so with a touch of interstellar humor and scholarly rigor, for as they say, in the vast expanse of the universe, even the most improbable cosmic coincidences may just be waiting to be discovered!

## VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, our study provides compelling evidence for a cosmic correlation between UFO sightings in Alaska and patents granted in the US, making it as solid as a meteorite crashing into statistical significance. It's clear that this extraterrestrial influence on our earthly inventions is not just a "flying saucer" of fancy but a statistically grounded phenomenon that deserves further investigation. Our findings suggest that the exchange of "alien technology" may be more than just a sci-fi trope – it might be a statistical reality that's as astonishing as a UFO sighting at a stargazing party.

Our research opens up a whole new dimension to the world of patents, demonstrating that the cosmic mystery of UFO sightings may have sparked innovation in ways we never imagined. It seems that the "X-Files" may hold more than just secrets – they may also contain the blueprints for groundbreaking inventions. This study not only challenges our preconceived notions about extraterrestrial encounters but also invites us to ponder the celestial forces at play in our earthly inventiveness. It's as if the cosmos has been silently whispering invention ideas to us all along, like a cosmic game of charades where the answer is always "alien-inspired patents."

At this point, you might be asking, "do we need more research in this area?" Well, the answer is as clear as a starlit night sky: our findings indicate a strong connection between UFO sightings in Alaska and patents granted in the US, and any further research might just feel like we're beating a dead "space horse." So, let's heed the cosmic signs and close the book on this extraterrestrial chapter of research. After all, as they say, "why did the alien break up with his girlfriend? Because he wanted space!"