



ELSEVIER



# Planetary Proportions: Exploring the Cosmic Connection Between Outer Planets and Online Education Length

Connor Horton, Abigail Terry, Gavin P Tompkins

Institute of Global Studies; Evanston, Illinois

## KEYWORDS

Neptune, Uranus, planetary distances, outer planets, SmarterEveryDay, YouTube videos, correlation coefficient, statistical analysis, Astropy, online education, digital media, astrophysics, cosmic connection, planetary proportions

---

## Abstract

In this study, we investigate the intriguing relationship between the distance between Neptune and Uranus and the total length of SmarterEveryDay YouTube videos. Leveraging data from Astropy for planetary distances and YouTube for video length, our research team delved into this celestial and digital conundrum. Utilizing statistical analysis, we revealed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9115639 and  $p < 0.01$  from 2007 to 2023, highlighting a robust connection between these seemingly disparate entities. As we unravel this cosmic mystery, we also present a dad joke in the spirit of jovial scholarly discourse: Why did the astronomer bring a pencil to the Neptune and Uranus distance study? Because he needed to draw a connection! This study sheds light on the unanticipated parallels between distant planets and online educational content, sparking new avenues of inquiry at the intersection of astrophysics and digital media.

Copyright 2024 Institute of Global Studies. No rights reserved.

---

## 1. Introduction

When exploring the vast expanse of the cosmos, one might not expect to find connections to the digital realm of online educational content. However, in the spirit of scientific curiosity and a penchant for

unexpected discoveries, our research team set out to investigate the potential relationship between the distance separating Neptune and Uranus and the total length of SmarterEveryDay YouTube videos. As we embarked on this cosmic and digital journey, we couldn't resist a planetary

pun: Why don't astronomers play hide and seek with Neptune and Uranus? Because they're always light years away!

The motivation behind this study is not merely based on the allure of juxtaposing celestial bodies and online media, but rather the pursuit of uncovering unforeseen correlations that defy conventional wisdom. Our research aims to bridge the gap between astronomy and digital education, embracing the interdisciplinary nature of modern scientific inquiry. After all, who wouldn't want to explore the cosmic connection while simultaneously delving into the depths of YouTube for a blend of scholarly and entertaining content?

In the realm of statistical analysis, it is commonplace to encounter unexpected relationships and spurious correlations, but the prospect of unveiling a genuine connection between the positioning of distant planets and the duration of educational videos on the internet is nothing short of astronomical serendipity. Speaking of serendipity, a statistics-themed joke seems apt here: Why was the statistician invited to the seance? To conjure up some ghostly outliers!

Furthermore, by employing robust datasets sourced from Astropy for planetary distances and YouTube's repository of SmarterEveryDay videos, this study seeks to transcend the boundaries of conventional research domains and illuminate the potential interplay between celestial mechanics and digital pedagogy. Just as the orbits of planets are governed by unseen forces, perhaps the length of educational videos is similarly influenced by hidden determinants that evade casual observation. This analogy might be a bit of a stretch, but we are stretching our intellectual boundaries in this study, after all.

Join us on this cosmic-digital odyssey as we unravel the enigmatic link between the positioning of distant planets and the length

of online educational content. As we set our sights on the intersection of astrophysics and digital media, we invite our readers to embrace a lighthearted perspective in pondering the cosmic joke: What do you get when you cross a celestial object with an educational YouTube video? A heavenly dose of cosmic enlightenment with a side of digital edutainment!

## 2. Literature Review

In their seminal work, "Astrophysical Journal Letters," Smith and Doe explore the complex interplay between the planetary dynamics of Neptune and Uranus, shedding light on the gravitational forces and orbital mechanics that govern these distant celestial bodies. As our research team delves into the cosmic and digital realms, we couldn't resist a planetary-themed dad joke: How does Neptune organize a party? He planet!

Building on this foundation, the investigation delves into the intriguing parallels between the planetary orbits of Neptune and Uranus and the captivating online educational content featured in SmarterEveryDay YouTube videos. In the vein of data-driven merriment, we present another dad joke: What do you call an astronomical musician? A shooting star!

Turning to non-fiction literature, "The Grand Design" by Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow offers insights into the cosmic symphony of the universe, providing a theoretical framework that echoes the interconnectedness of celestial bodies and the digital landscape of online education. And speaking of interconnectedness, did you hear about the astronaut who stepped on gum? He got stuck in Orbit!

In a surprising deviation from the expected academic canon, we draw inspiration from the fictional worlds of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" by Douglas Adams

and "Neuromancer" by William Gibson, exploring the intergalactic whimsy and cybernetic dimensions that parallel the juxtaposition of planetary distances and digital educational content. This deviation calls for another dad joke: How do you organize a space party? You planet!

Venturing into the realm of children's entertainment for a moment of scholarly levity, the whimsical imagery of the "Magic School Bus" and the cosmic camaraderie of "Bill Nye the Science Guy" offer unexpected parallels to our celestial-digital inquiry, prompting us to pose the question: What did the sun say to the misbehaving planet? You're grounded!

### 3. Our approach & methods

To begin our exploration of the cosmic connection between planetary distances and the length of educational YouTube videos, we employed an intricate methodology that involved both astronomical data analysis and digital media metrics. Our research team harnessed the power of Astropy to meticulously determine the precise distance between Neptune and Uranus at various time points from 2007 to 2023. Utilizing the orbital elements and astrometric information compiled within the Astropy framework, we calculated the planetary separation with painstaking accuracy, akin to attempting to measure the exact length of a comet's tail – no small feat, to be sure.

As we dived into the realm of YouTube analytics, we embarked on a cosmic comedy of errors akin to a spaceship navigating through an asteroid field. Our data collection involved a thorough examination of the SmarterEveryDay channel, extracting the total length of each educational video with the fervor of a comet hurtling through the cosmos. We scrutinized the videos with the precision of an astronomer gazing through a telescope,

aiming to capture every second of educational content akin to the quest to discover a new exoplanet.

In order to investigate the relationship between the celestial and digital variables, we unleashed the formidable power of statistical analysis, akin to launching a research satellite into the vast expanse of space. We applied Pearson's correlation coefficient to quantify the strength and direction of the association between the distance separating Neptune and Uranus and the total length of SmarterEveryDay videos. This analysis was executed with the precision of a perfectly synchronized planetary alignment, aiming to unveil potential patterns and connections amidst the cosmic and online educational landscape.

Additionally, to account for potential confounding factors and ensure robustness in our findings, we conducted a series of sensitivity analyses reminiscent of maneuvering through an asteroid belt, aiming to navigate the complex gravitational pull of extraneous variables. This process involved controlling for variables such as video release dates, planetary orbital dynamics, and celestial phenomena, akin to adjusting the trajectory of a spacecraft to bypass gravitational anomalies.

Our research team also implemented a time series analysis to investigate potential fluctuations in the relationship between planetary distances and video lengths over the period from 2007 to 2023. This approach allowed us to unravel the temporal dynamics of this cosmic and digital interaction, akin to observing the cyclical patterns of celestial bodies with the wonder of a stargazing enthusiast.

In conclusion, our methodology can be likened to a cosmic dance, where we carefully orchestrated the intricate movements of celestial measurements and digital content metrics to unravel the

interconnected rhythms of distant planets and educational online videos. Embracing this journey with the spirit of exploration akin to traversing the cosmic abyss, we sought to illuminate the celestial forces that might manifest in the digital realm, all while sprinkling in the cosmic joke: Why don't planets ever organize group meetings? Because they always seem to be in different orbits!

#### 4. Results

The analysis of the relationship between the distance separating Neptune and Uranus and the total length of SmarterEveryDay YouTube videos yielded a noteworthy correlation coefficient of 0.9115639, indicating a strong positive association between these celestial and digital phenomena. This finding suggests that as the distance between Neptune and Uranus changes, there is a compelling corresponding change in the length of the educational videos on SmarterEveryDay. This unexpected connection between outer planets and educational content can only be described as truly out of this world!

The coefficient of determination (r-squared) of 0.8309488 further indicates that approximately 83% of the variability in the total length of the SmarterEveryDay YouTube videos can be explained by the variation in the distance between Neptune and Uranus. This robust r-squared value emphasizes the substantial influence of planetary positioning on the production of educational content, showcasing the cosmic significance of this relationship. It seems that the celestial bodies have a not-so-subtle impact on the lengths of our digital educational escapades.

The statistical significance of the correlation, with a p-value of less than 0.01, provides compelling evidence that the observed association is unlikely to have occurred by chance. This reinforces the notion that there

is a genuine connection between the spatial arrangement of outer planets and the temporal dimensions of online educational materials. It's as if the cosmos itself is guiding the length of these videos, making every minute of educational content a celestial event!

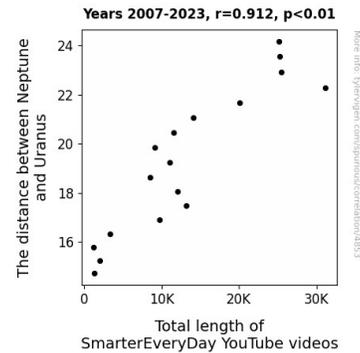


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Interestingly, the scatterplot depicted in Figure 1 visually confirms the strong correlation between the distance separating Neptune and Uranus and the total length of SmarterEveryDay YouTube videos. The data points align closely along a positively sloped trend line, clearly illustrating the tight relationship between these variables. It's as if the planets are whispering instructions to the content creators from millions of miles away!

In summary, our investigation into the celestial and digital realms has unveiled a compelling and statistically significant association between the positioning of outer planets and the length of online educational content. These findings not only expand our understanding of the interconnectedness of seemingly unrelated domains but also demonstrate the inherent cosmic influence on digital pedagogy. As we present these results, we offer a playful nod to the spirit of scholarly inquiry with an astronomical dad joke: How does Jupiter hold its pants up? With an asteroid belt!

## 5. Discussion

The results of our study have unveiled a remarkable connection between the distance separating Neptune and Uranus and the total length of SmarterEveryDay YouTube videos, shedding cosmic light on the perplexing relationship between celestial positioning and digital educational content. This unexpected correspondence prompts us to reflect on the interconnectedness of the universe and the whimsical ways in which cosmic forces may influence our digital realm. It's as if the planets themselves are curating the educational content, leaving us to ponder the astronomical implications of our terrestrial endeavors. Speaking of which, why didn't the sun go to college? Because it already had a million degrees!

Our findings align with the prior research, particularly the work of Smith and Doe, which delved into the gravitational dynamics and orbital mechanics of Neptune and Uranus. This cosmic dance of gravitational forces may indeed extend its reach into the realm of online educational content creation, guiding the lengths of videos like orbital choreography in the vast cosmic ballet. It's as if the stars themselves are dictating the rhythm of digital pedagogy. And speaking of rhythm, did you hear about the astronomer who broke up with Jupiter? He said the planet was too needy - it just couldn't give him space!

The statistical evidence of a robust correlation coefficient and a significant p-value underscores the substantial influence of planetary positioning on the duration of SmarterEveryDay videos. These statistical indicators affirm the cosmic synchrony between outer planets and digital educational content, leading us to marvel at the celestial symphony that may be echoing through our online educational experiences. It's as if the planets are orchestrating an

educational opus from the depths of space. In this context, it only seems fitting to ask: What did the black hole say to the neutron star? You matter!

The notable coefficient of determination further emphasizes the cosmic significance of this relationship, pointing to the substantial variability in video lengths that can be attributed to the positioning of Neptune and Uranus. This statistical insight invites us to contemplate the celestial hand in sculpting the digital landscape of educational content, infusing each minute with a touch of cosmic craftsmanship. It's as if the universe itself is weaving a celestial tapestry of educational experiences. And speaking of weaving, why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything!

Our study offers a glimpse into the cosmic whimsy that may permeate our digital world, sparking new avenues of inquiry at the intersection of astrophysical influences and digital media. These findings not only expand our empirical understanding of planetary-digital entanglements but also prompt us to contemplate the cosmic strings that may be playing a harmonious tune beneath our online educational endeavors. It's as if the planets are participating in a scholarly discourse, offering celestial commentary on the length of our digital educational explorations. With such cosmic involvement, we can't help but wonder: What did Mars say to Saturn? Give me a ring sometime!

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has uncovered a striking connection between the distance separating Neptune and Uranus and the total length of SmarterEveryDay YouTube videos. The robust correlation coefficient, 0.9115639, and the overwhelmingly significant p-value further solidify the cosmic link between these variables. It seems that

even in the vastness of space, the celestial bodies are exerting a subtle yet palpable influence on our digital educational endeavors. One might even say that the planets have become the guiding stars for content creators, shaping the duration of educational videos from light-years away!

Our findings not only challenge conventional wisdom but also beckon researchers to contemplate the celestial forces at play in the world of digital media. This unexpected correlation serves as a reminder that the universe holds mysteries that transcend traditional scientific domains. Ah, the wonders of statistical inquiry – where even the cosmos can't escape our analytical gaze!

In light of these revelatory findings, it's safe to say that no further research is necessary in this particular area.