

A Visualization of UFO Data since 1990.

Gautam Krishnan: Overall code and documentation.

Heesung Kim: Color schemes, font styles and design aesthetics.

Randy Tejada: Co-programmer/editor.

Link to application: <http://www.gautamkrishnan.com/projects/ufo/>

Description:

Unidentified Flying Objects or UFOs are any apparent anomalies in the sky that are not identifiable as a known object or phenomenon. UFOs are associated with claims of visitation by extraterrestrial life and have become popular subjects in fiction.

The National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC), located in Seattle, WA, was founded in 1974 by noted UFO investigator Robert J. Gribble. The Center's primary function over the past two decades has been to receive, record, and to the greatest degree possible, corroborate and document reports from individuals who have been witness to unusual, possibly UFO-related events.

Collectively, UFO stories are a sci-fi inspired projection of how we think space visitors would look and behave. Despite over 60 years of "sightings," the purported scientific evidence is largely anecdotal and uncorroborated. UFOs have been and also are currently a very interesting topic because of the uncertainty that we do not know if they really exist. While looking for datasets online, we stumbled upon the UFO data set and thus found it to be really interesting.

In our project, we have made a line graph, plotting the number of UFO Reports vs Time. We have also added a control to change the start date of the results. We have also added a pie chart with the types of shapes of UFOs that have been sighted. The next item we have is the number of UFOs reported by state that has been plotted on a Leaflet.js map.

The NUFORC has made its dataset publicly available and is available here:

<http://www.nuforc.org/webreports.html>

Installation and running:

Download the source files and move to a local webserver (like Apache) and open the index file via localhost.