Christina Nguyen

AP EN 3193

Professor Julia Creet

Tuesday, March 23, 2020

Statement of Authorial Intent:

Evidence for astrological charts: quantum mechanics and the movement of the stars

This statement of authorial intent is separated into two sections: the first explains the scientific context and the formatting context of the satire (satire of content, satire of form); the second contains the paper itself with annotations from me, the author. These annotations will help break down the humour, the targets, and methods used.

1. The Scientific and Formatting Context
2. The real science

If you need me to prove to you that astrology is a total hoax, then you should keep reading this section. If you know your stuff, great! Skip to section I.ii.

Many religions and cultures grew from observations of the night sky. The vestiges of this lies in astrology, a term which implies the *knowledge* (-logy, from the Latin *logos*)of *celestial bodies* (astro-, from the Latin *astra*)*.* Generally speaking, astrology is the belief that the position of the celestial bodies (mostly planets and stars) in our night sky affects human-centered events on Earth. There are two main branches of astrology: Western and Eastern. Western astrology considers the positions of planets to the twelve constellations as *not* arbitrary (as science would suggest). Some conclusions that can come from such spatial relationships are: E.g. their positions at your birth affects your personality, etc.

These predictions are so random or follow un-scientific principles, so forgive me if I present a table of un-scientific predictions (table 1). Use for your own amusement.

A close up of text on a white background

Description automatically generated

Table 1.

Let’s test the main claim of astrology: that the position of celestial bodies affect us:’ but how? If astrology is real, we should be able to detect it with our instruments, collect data, and categorize it. Let’s give it the benefit of doubt.

Take the four fundamental forces that these planets could exhibit on us: strong nuclear force, weak nuclear force, electromagnetic force, and gravity. Could any of these things affect a personality? Nope.

1. The real formatting

In order to *mimic* the *form* of credible, peer-reviewed articles, I studied the AASTeX v6.3 guide, which is widely used as the standard for publishing in the American Astronomical Society Journal. This formatting style, like APA or MLA, guides academics in how their paper should look. It is specific to a program called LaTeX, which is like Microsoft Word: it is the word-processing application that helps researchers format, print, and publish papers.

Some of the AASTeX guidelines that I followed were:

* Using the \begin{abstract} and \end{abstract} command instead of the \section{abstract}
* Including authors in the correct format (using *et al.* first)
* Putting keywords *after* the \end{abstract} command

1. Annotations
2. The paper

A close up of text on a white background

Description automatically generated

A close up of text on a white background

Description automatically generated

1. The code (Wow, this looks so scientific and legitimate, it couldn’t be fake, right? I’m including the code here, not because I think you understand this code, but it just makes the paper look so *proper).* Link the online version:

https://www.overleaf.com/read/qkvmszjqpxhc

 

  