

**A Compative Study of Gnus and Gnats: The Most Important Paper Ever  
Written**

by  
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## **Abstract**

I present a fascinating and thought provoking study, comparing gnus and gnats. The results of the study show conclusively that there is no resemblance between the two, whatsoever.

## **Acknowledgments**

I would like to thank my advisor, Dr. Dimm Whitt, for all of the support he has given me. It really was not much, but he did at least stop yelling at me.

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# **Chapter 1**

## **Introduction**

This thesis is the first work ever done in the fascinating study of comparison of gnats to gnus. It is groundbreaking. There literally is nothing like it. However, there have been a few studies of other things.



## Chapter 2

### Previous Work

There has been a lot of previous work that is not at all like my work. For example, Kringle [1] showed that apples and goats have almost nothing in common, other than both being red. The major problem with Kringle's study is that he used a goat that had been spray painted red, and his apple was a golden delicious variety. Criticism of Kringle's methods has been harsh, and so far, no one has been able to replicate his results.

Several researchers have compared trout to eagles [2, 3]. The consensus that has emerged is that they are quite different, and only an idiot would try to eat an eagle [4].

## Chapter 3

### Methods

In this chapter, I will present the methods for my comparison, and fill in with a lot of gibberish. For instance, I will say things like “Gnats and Gnus come in twos” in order to fill space and make my thesis seem longer than it really is. This is a tactic used by some people to hide the fact that their research is worthless. The idea is that if the thesis is long enough and boring enough, the thesis committee members will go to sleep every time they try to read it.

Another thing that I may do is to use very long words, such as onomatopoeia, for no apparent reason. By employing voluminous instances of obfuscatory and expansive vocables, the lack of quintessence of this monograph can be adumbrated from all but the most erudite, didactic, and scholarly bibliophiles.

## Chapter 4

### Results

My research had fabulous results. I will now tell you about the results, because they are the best! You are not going to believe how good my results are.

#### 4.1 Visual comparison

The first test that I performed was a visual comparison of gnats and gnus. First, I went on the internet and downloaded several thousand pictures of gnats, and one picture of a gnu. Then, I had two volunteers compare them and categorize them as insect or mammal. Next, I selected another group of volunteers and had them classify the photographs as either gnat or gnu.

The results of this comparison are shown in Table 4.1. As can be seen, both volunteers (myself and my advisor) were able to correctly classify most of the photographs. As a result, we gave each other little gold stars. For those who are interested, Figure 4.1 shows the gnu photograph and one of the gnat photographs.

#### 4.2 Comparison by Size

As can be seen from Figure 4.1, photographs of gnats are slightly larger than photographs of gnus. This leads us to believe that statistically, gnats are slightly larger than gnus. Mathematically, we express this as follows:

$$S(\mathcal{G}_t) > S(\mathcal{G}_u) \forall \mathcal{G}_t, \mathcal{G}_u, \quad (4.1)$$

**Table 4.1:** Results of visual comparison studies.

Categories	Percent Correct
insect/mammal	76
gnat/gnu	69



**Figure 4.1:** Photographs of a gnu (left) and a gnat (right).

where  $G_t$  is a photograph of a gnat and  $G_u$  is a photograph of a gnu. The  $S()$  function calculates the “size” of the photograph.

## **Chapter 5**

### **Conclusions**

Well, there you have it. My advisor and I were able to tell the difference between a photograph of a gnat and a gnu most of the time. Also, gnats are larger than gnus, and therefore, they are significantly different.

In the future, we plan to apply the techniques developed in this research to answer the age old question of whether dogs and ducks are the same thing.

## Bibliography

- [1] K. Kringle, *A Comparative Study of Apples and Goats*. Doctoral dissertation, Oklahoma University for the Bottom Quartile, Portsmouth, Maine, May 1990.
- [2] B. J. B. Simmons and D. E. Dougherty, "Catching eagles with a trout fishing pole," *The Redneck Quarterly*, vol. 243, pp. 2–8, August 1988.
- [3] S. Sheppard, D. U. Majors, and M. T. Martian, "Are feathers and scales the same?," in *Proceedings of the Fifth Meeting of Morons*, (Bayou, Louisiana), pp. 2–3, MOM, August 1992.
- [4] I. B. Idiotic, *A Redneck Game Cookbook: Including Recipes for Seldom Eaten Critters*. Huntsville, Alabama: Redneck Press, 1996.

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix A**

Well, I really have nothing more to say, but wanted to have an appendix.



## Vita

Format the vita page according to the following graduate school requirements:

A vita page, not over one page in length, is to be included as the last page of all theses and dissertations deposited in the Devereaux Library. The vita is to be written in the third person using professional style and could contain the following information (although you may wish to omit A and B if concerned about identity theft):

- A. Place and date of birth.
- B. Place and date of high school graduation.
- C. Place and date of college graduation with degree and major.
- D. Place and date of receipt of masters degree with major.
- E. Vocational and professional experience (not summer jobs) including dates, nature of position, and school or organization.
- F. Military experience, with indication of professional relevance if any.
- G. Scholarly publications, exhibits of creative work, membership in professional organizations and honorary societies.