Math 481

Instructor: Chenxi Wu
wuchenxi2013@gmail.com
Office: Hill 434

Office hours: 10-11 am Tu, Wed or by appointment

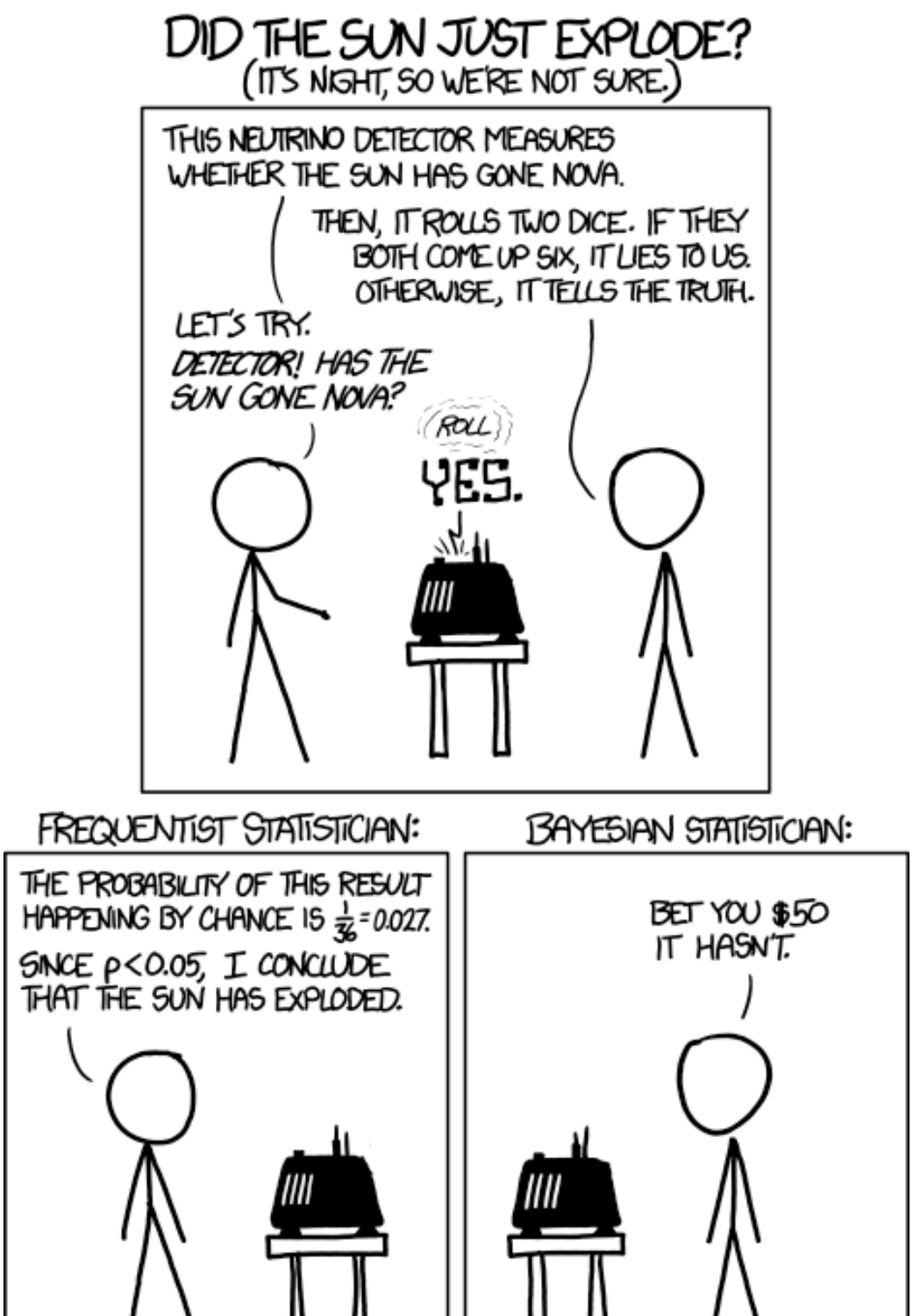
Grading policy: 10% weekly homework (lowest dropped), 20% each of the two midterms, 50% final exam.

Main topics we will cover:

- Review of probability
- Point estimate
- p-values and hypothesis testing
- Confidence intervals
- Bayesian statistics

Bayesian and non-Bayesian approaches to statistics

- Non-Bayesian approach: Set up a null hypothesis and try to show that observation is highly unlikely if null hypothesis is true.
- Bayesian approach: Assume prior distribution of some parameter, calculate posterior via Bayes formula


DID THE SUN JUST EXPLODE?
(IT'S NIGHT, SO WE'RE NOT SURE.)
THIS NEUTRINO DETECTOR MEASURES WHETHER THE SUN HAS GONE NOVA.
THEN, IT ROLLS TWO DICE. IF THEY BOTH COME UP SIX, IT LIES TO US. OTHERWISE, IT TELLS THE TRUTH.
LET'S TRY.
DETECTOR! HAS THE SUN GONE NOVA?
ROLL
YES.
FREQUENTIST STATISTICIAN:
THE PROBABILITY OF THIS RESULT HAPPENING BY CHANCE IS $\frac{1}{36}$ = 0.027.
SINCE p<0.05, I CONCLUDE THAT THE SUN HAS EXPLODED.
BAYESIAN STATISTICIAN:
BET YOU $50 IT HASN'T.

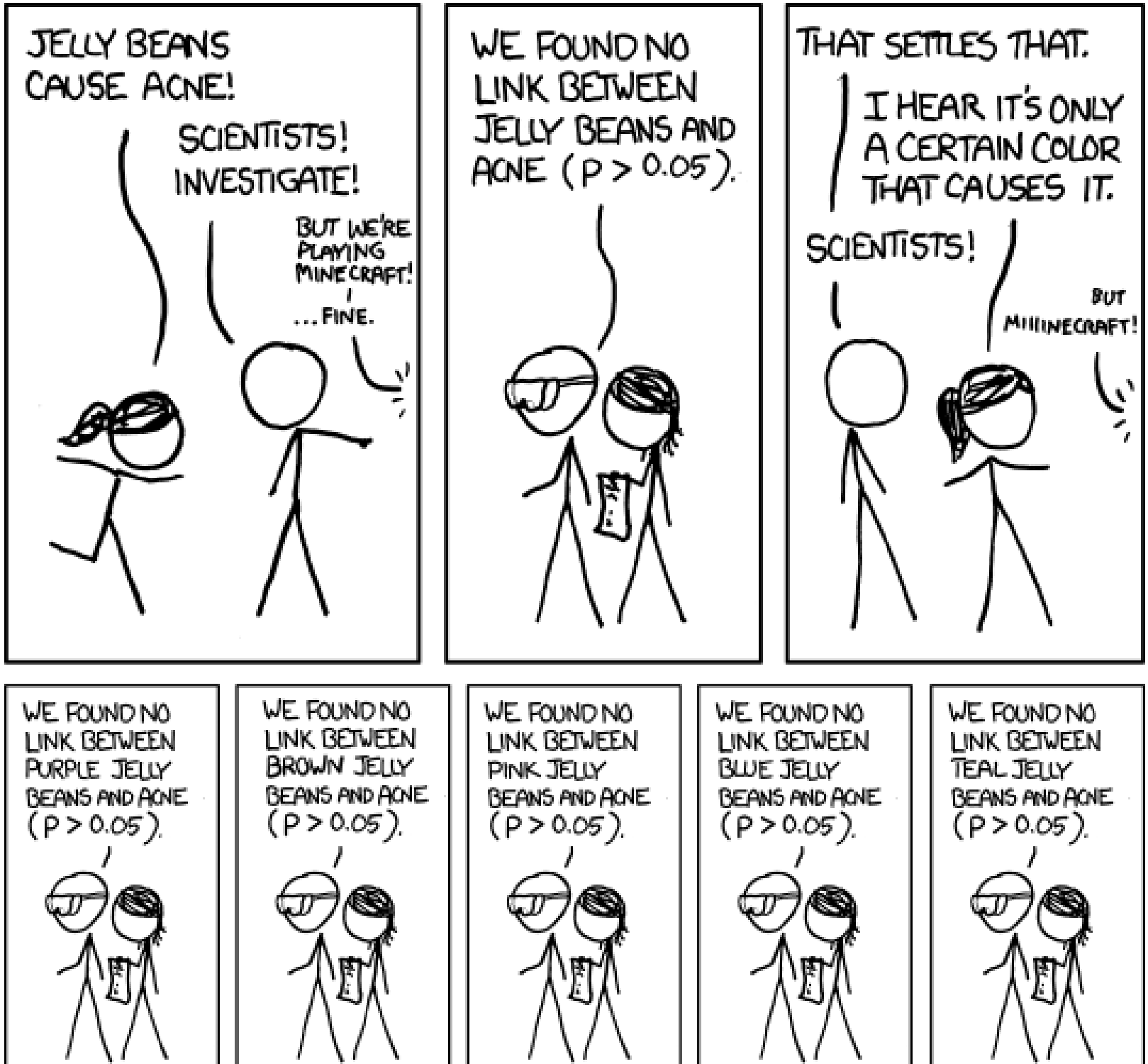
Some review of basic probability

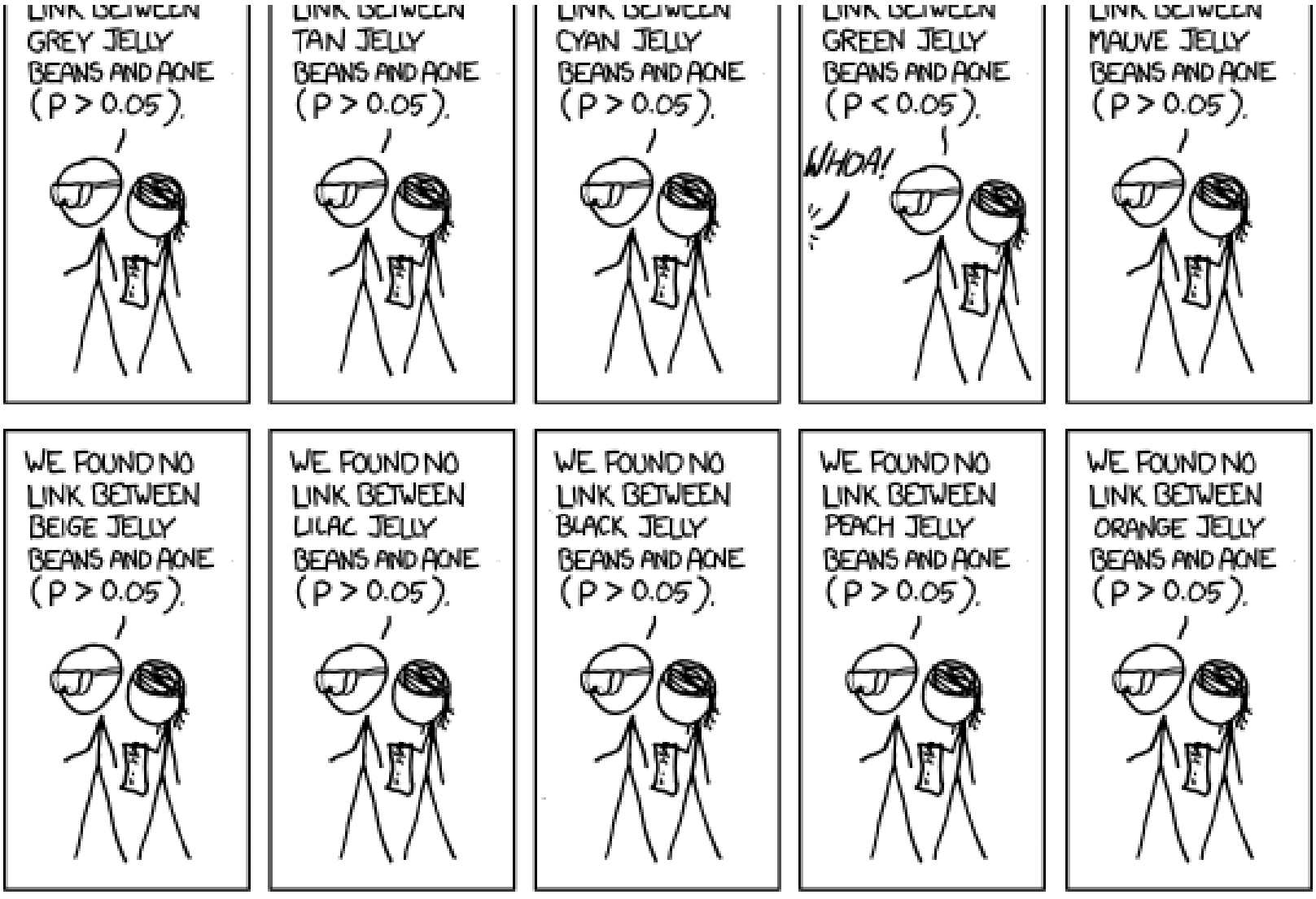
- Two random events A and B are called **independent** if $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$
- If A and B are two random events, $P(A) > 0$. The conditional probability of B when A is given is $P(B|A) = P(A \cap B)/P(A)$.

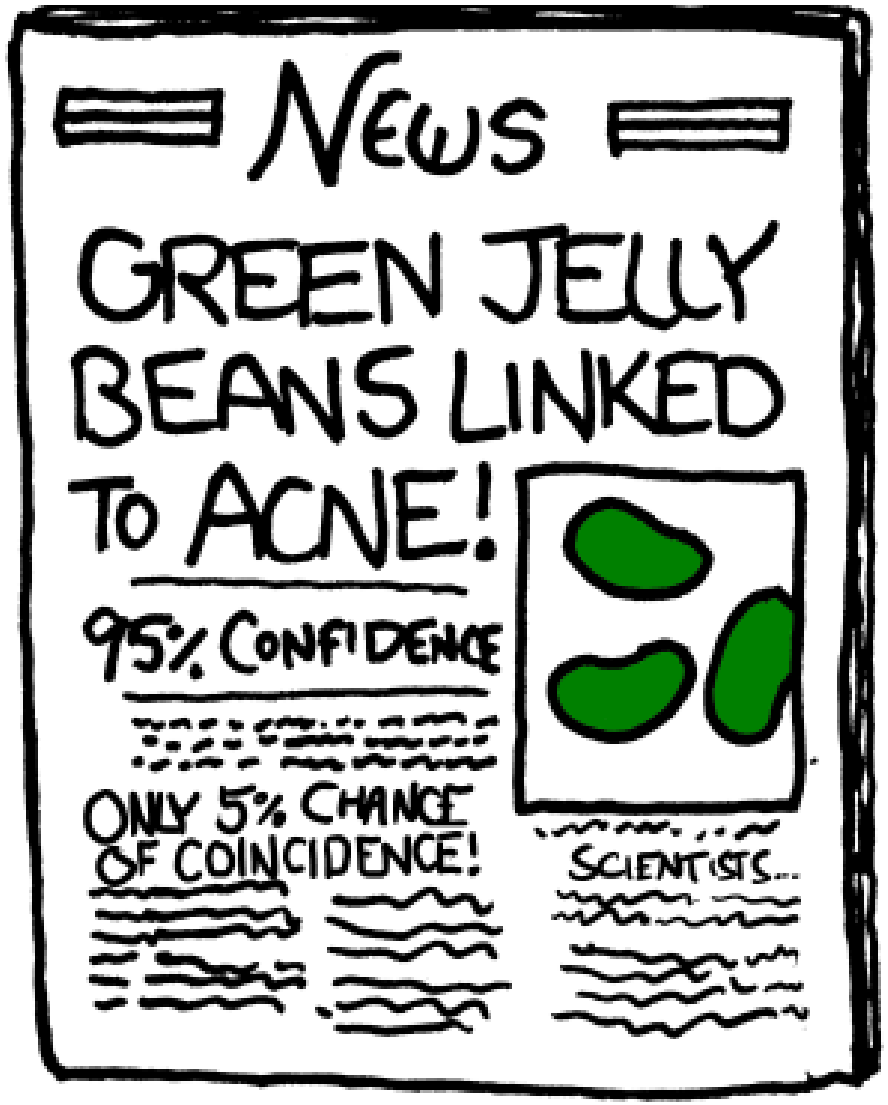
Example

Suppose you are given a coin, you flip it 5 times and get head on all 5 of them.

- Suppose the coin is fair, what is the odds that it gets head for 5 times in 5 flips?
- Suppose the coin is biased and gets head at probability p.
  - What is the probability that it gets head for 5 times in 5 flips?
  - What is the p that maximizes this probability?
  - What is the range of p such that the probability for 5 heads in 5 flips is no less than 0.05?
- Suppose you pick the coin among a pile of 100 coins, 99 of which is fair and 1 has head on both sides. What is the chance of the coin being unfair given the results of the 5 flips?
- Suppose the odds for getting a head is uniformly distributed in $[0, 1]$, given the results of the 5 flips, what do you think is the most likely value for p?


JELLY BEANS CAUSE ACNE!
SCIENTISTS! INVESTIGATE!
BUT WE'RE PLAYING MINECRAFT!
... FINE.
WE FOUND NO LINK BETWEEN JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).
THAT SETTLES THAT.
I HEAR IT'S ONLY A CERTAIN COLOR THAT CAUSES IT.
SCIENTISTS!
BUT MIIIINECRAFT!
WE FOUND NO LINK BETWEEN PURPLE JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).
WE FOUND NO LINK BETWEEN BROWN JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).
WE FOUND NO LINK BETWEEN PINK JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).
WE FOUND NO LINK BETWEEN BLUE JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).
WE FOUND NO LINK BETWEEN TEAL JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).


LINK BETWEEN GREY JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).
LINK BETWEEN TAN JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).
LINK BETWEEN CYAN JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).
LINK BETWEEN GREEN JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P < 0.05).
WHOA!
LINK BETWEEN MAUVE JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).
WE FOUND NO LINK BETWEEN BEIGE JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).
WE FOUND NO LINK BETWEEN LILAC JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).
WE FOUND NO LINK BETWEEN BLACK JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).
WE FOUND NO LINK BETWEEN PEACH JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).
WE FOUND NO LINK BETWEEN ORANGE JELLY BEANS AND ACNE (P > 0.05).


NEWS
GREEN JELLY BEANS LINKED TO ACNE!
95% CONFIDENCE
ONLY 5% CHANCE OF COINCIDENCE!
SCIENTISTS...