

Nicole Dipirro

Dr. Stein

English Composition I

November 13, 2025

### Aliens or Illusions?

The idea that there are alien life forms that we have not yet discovered only seems realistic in SYFY movies. Science has been around for centuries, growing and enhancing every day, but we have yet to dissect the body of an alien or explore an alien spacecraft, which is what most would consider to be a UFO. But a UFO is not simply described as one object; it is considered to be any flying object unknown to the US government. There are speculations that any UFOs spotted are simply space dandruff; many people believe they are drones from other countries spying on our military bases, and then there is the alien theory. But why does it matter if there are aliens in existence? It hasn't affected me in my 33 years of life. When asking Google what the strongest lens for seeing in space and what we can see with it, the answer: "The strongest lens for seeing in space is the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), which is currently the most powerful telescope available. It can observe infrared light, allowing it to see distant galaxies and phenomena that are not visible to the naked eye. But we haven't seen an alien? Interesting. In this comparative textual analysis, we will compare the articles from at least four different sources that will either fuel your belief or confirm your doubts whether or not these UFO sightings are aliens, comets, space dandruff, or simply illusions.

Trevor Timm, the cofounder and executive director at Freedom of the Press, is a journalist, activist, and legal analyst who writes articles that have been published in the New York Times, The Guardian, and USA Today. In Trevor Timm's article, "The US Government should tell the public what it knows about UFO's," published in the Guardian, Trevor Timm

argues that it is in the best interest of the public for the government to be transparent about their knowledge regarding aliens and all that they know about them. His reference to David Grusch, a retired Airforce officer, regarding his claim that the government has been in possession of alien spacecraft for decades was enough for Chuck Schumer, senate majority leader, to introduce a transparency bill into congress that would, if passed, release all of the information the US Government has on aliens to the public. But what he doesn't prove in his article is that the government is in possession of alien spacecraft; if the government has the evidence, then someone has the proof, but it surely was not portrayed in that article.

Described in the article titled, "This Former NASA Engineer has debunked pretty much every online UFO Sighting," James Oberg, the former NASA Engineer (1975 to 1997), explains how he trolled through every online claim of an alien sighting and proved each one to be anything but aliens, using science. He explains that "Our sensory system is functioning absolutely perfectly for Earth conditions." He goes on to say that every sighting is simply space dandruff, and our eyes are set up for Earth's slow movements, that we don't know what space looks like. The lighting, angle, and speed of an object plays a huge part in how our brain comprehends what our eyes see. I like to think of our eyes as a camera and our brain is a picture book with no words, no immediate explanation of anything, now add seeing strange phenomena, our minds immediately draw up creative conclusions, until logical explanations start to develop, our imagination is usually first on site.

Dr. Abraham (Avi) Loeb is an Israeli and American theoretical physicist who works on astrophysics and cosmology. He is a professor of science at Harvard University. He was involved in the Department of Astronomy from 2011 to 2020, and he also founded the Black Hole initiative in 2016. In the article titled, "3I/ATLAS gets sudden nongravitational acceleration," written based on Dr. Abraham (Avi) Loeb's claims that 3I/ATLAS is a Manhattan sized "comet"

that accelerated when it reached its closest point to the sun, adding to what he believes to be proof of alien technology. His belief is that it is going against Earth's gravitational force, meaning in theory; it would be "driven" by a power source, like an engine. In reality, how can we assume we are the only advanced group of individuals in existence with some form of power source? Going back to my belief of mermaids and aliens coexisting in the ocean, when you google what gases can be found on other planets, google claims that "the discovery of gases like dimethyl sulfide (DMS) and dimethyl disulfide (DMDS) in the atmosphere of the planet K2-18b has sparked significant interest in the search for extraterrestrial life. These gases are produced by living organisms on Earth, particularly marine algae, and are considered strong indicators of biological activity. The presence of these gases on K2-18b suggests the possibility of microbial life, although the findings should be viewed cautiously due to the lack of direct evidence for actual living organisms. The discovery of these gases marks a significant step forward in the search for life beyond our solar system, particularly on Hycean planets, which are characterized by deep global oceans and thick hydrogen-rich atmospheres."

The Joe Rogan Experience podcast found on Spotify, YouTube and IHeart, hosted by Joe Rogan, an American podcaster, comedian and actor who share similar views on the mysterious interstellar object, a Manhattan sized "comet" that they believe to be alien technology. Dr. Loeb claims that the comet accelerated against Earth's gravitational force when it reached its closest point to the sun, meaning in Loeb's theory 3I/ATLAS must be driven by a power source, like an engine. The only explanation they believe to be plausible is alien technology.

But if we go back to James Oberg's theory of space dandruff and how our brains are only programmed to comprehend what our eyes see in Earth's slow-moving conditions, space is simply way too fast for our eyes to send an exact visual representation to our brains, forcing us to constantly speculate. The angle from which the comet is viewed alongside the lighting and speed of the comet, can play a part in the optical illusion we see from earth. Just the other day I thought an airplane was falling out of the sky, straight down to its demise. I was yelling "is this a mayday moment?" I'm trying to get my children to see what I'm seeing as I am driving 55 miles per hour

down a windy road. And when my direction switched and I went up the hill and around the bend, the plane was going in a completely different direction, and my first thought was the trail it left behind had surely shifted? But it hadn't, it never swerved from its perfectly straight line, and I was left puzzled. My girls say they saw it, but did they really see it how I saw it? From my specific angle, add to it the lighting, the speed of my vehicle and the speed of the airplane, it appeared to be the exact recipe for James Oberg's theory.

My question is, would "aliens" be anything like the creatures they portray them as in the movies, for example: Men in Black, Armageddon, Independence Day, even the movie Signs? There are so many depictions on what aliens would or could be like, maybe we have it all wrong. The fact that we as human beings have only been able to explore 5% of the earth's oceans, with only 10% mapped out using modern technology, it would seem more logical that aliens really do live in the water as appose to in the atmosphere considering the amount of satellites, aircraft and spacecraft, jets that we have monitoring our skies. The JWST can detect objects as far back as 13.6 billion lightyears, enabling scientists to study the early universe and observe cosmic events such as black holes and the formation of galaxies." And still, we have not been able to prove that aliens exist in outer space. Mermaids and aliens coexisting deep in the oceans are beginning to seem more plausible than aliens being in outer space. Consider the amount of activity that we have going on in our skies and think of the lack of human activity in our oceans. Add to that, the majority of "alien sightings" I've seen on video happen near bodies of water. Coincidence? I don't think so.

## Works Cited

“The Government should tell the public what it knows about UFOs” Trevor Timm’s article published in The Guardian in 2023

“This Former NASA Engineer has debunked pretty much every online UFO Sighting,” Written by Fiona MacDonald published November 21, 2017

“3I/ATLAS gets Sudden Nongravitational Acceleration,” Published to NEWSWEEK October 31, 2025

The Joe Rogan Experience Podcast: Host Joe Rogan Interviewed Dr. Abraham Loeb on October 28, 2025. The title of the video interview is Comet or Alien Craft? Harvard Physicist Warns of a Mysterious Interstellar Object

Google Search “Gases found on other planets” Science Alert link

Google Search “Strongest Lens to see in space and what can we see with it” Live Science Link