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OUR UNIVERSE, AND THE ROLE OF LIFE IN IT



"whilst this planet has been cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning.... forms most wonderful have been and are being evolved"

Charles Darwin































The Satellites of Jupiter





Europa



Region 30km by 65km

Exploring the Solar System Saturn - Cassini-Huygens



Image of Titan by Cassini spacecraft

Enhanced colour image of the rings of Saturn by Cassini spacecraft

Huygens Entry, Descent and Landing



Huygens Probe Lands on Titan



Surface seen from **Descending Probe**

Methane Lake?



Landing



























NASA Kepler Mission

NASA's first mission capable of finding Earth-size and smaller planets

Launch March 09




Other possible places for life in our Solar System







Mars

ALH84001 a meteorite from Mars







Halley's Comet

Things that make our Earth special Stability of the Sun Size and location of the Earth • Size of our Moon Size and position of Jupiter Time of formation of Sun Location in Galaxy



















HOW MUCH LIES BEYOND OUR HORIZON (10¹⁰ 1.y distant)?

- Cannot be sure of anything beyond present causal horizon.
- Moreover, topology could be complex or 'kaleidoscopic'.
- But lack of discernible gradients across Hubble scale suggest that our universe extends for $> 10^{15}$ l.y
- and space could extend $> 10^{100}$ l.y
- or even >>>>>

(replicas!)

Moreover, this immense could be the aftermath of just <u>one big bang out of many</u> (eternal inflation, braneworlds, etc)







History of Life on Earth







"not one living species will transmit its unaltered likeness to a distant futurity...."

Charles Darwin

Postcard from planet Earth

we were here



















Things that make our Earth special Stability of the Sun Size and location of the Earth • Size of our Moon Size and position of Jupiter Time of formation of Sun Location in Galaxy









Kepler Mission

- Find the frequency of terrestrial planets in the Galaxy
- Characterize the properties of inner planetary systems.
- Determine the properties of stars (single & multiple) hosting planets.
- Discover terrestrial planets in habitable zones (or show that they are rare).
- Detect true Earth analogs
- A NULL result would also be very significant (frequency of stars with terrestrial planets is less than 5%)

Kepler is uniquely qualified to detect Earth-sized *extrasolar planets*!



Kepler Mission Transit Method of Detection March 2009 launch





WMAP: Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe

Images courtesy of NASA/WMAP Science Team





David T. Wilkinson



WMAP CBR SKY



Page et al; 2003
Cosmic Evolution -Cartoon



Well-understood

nonlinear simulations



Prerequisites for complex cosmos

- Gravity -- but weaker the better (at least one very large number in physics)
- Non-trivial chemistry ('tuning' between nuclear and e-m forces)
- *Matter/antimatter asymmetry*
- *'Tuned' cosmic expansion rate*
- Non-zero fluctuations in early universe







Kepler Mission







THE HIGHEST-REDSHIFT QUASARS









Collapsar **GRB** (cont.)







the challenges

- What is out there? Cosmic exploration.
- Interpreting phenomena in terms of known (and perhaps 'new') physics.
- How, from a 'simple beginning', did our Universe evolve into its present complexity (stars, planets, people)?
- Can we understand, at a deeper level, why our Universe is the way it is?





Just six numbers

Six constants of nature whose values must lie in an 'anthropic' range for life to emerge

1.D = 3The number of spatial dimensions2.G/E = 10⁻³⁶The ratio of gravitational to electrostatic force3.S = 0.007A measure of the strong force that binds nuclei4. $\Omega_{Total} = 1$ The density of matter/energy in space5.Q= 0.00001The scale of fluctuations in the microwave
background6. $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.7$ Omega lambda, a measure of the vacuum
energy of the universe

Coincidence?Consequence?Multiverse?

The Formation of a Stellar Cluster

Bonnell, Bate & Vine (2003)



1 Gpc/h

Hubble-Volume Simulation 1.000.000.000 particles





5 WAYS TO REFUTE "HOT BIG BANG"

- Object with ≪23% helium
- Millimetre-wave background below prediction Stable neutrino with mass 100 10⁶ eV
- Too much deuterium to match baryon density
- ΔT/T too small to account for present structure



WMAP



Calculations of the primal "cooking" of the chemical elements predict Hydrogen Helium Lithium



FIG. 13.—Predicted abundances (by number) of D. ³He, D + ³He, and ⁷Li, and the ⁴He mass fraction as a function of η for $N_{\gamma} = 3$ and $882 \le \tau_{s} \le 896$ s. The 95% CL bounds on the abundances (see text) are shown. The vertical band delimits the range of η consistent with the observations.

1 Gpc/h

Hubble-Volume Simulation 1.000.000.000 particles Calculations of the primal "cooking" of the chemical elements predict Hydrogen Helium Lithium



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Supermassive holes grow from seed pregalactic BHs. These seeds are incorporated in larger and larger halos, accreting gas and dynamically interacting after mergers.

All models for first BHs predict a biased formation: in the HIGHEST PEAKS OF DENSITY FLUCTUATIONS at z~20-30



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z=11.9 800 x 600 physical kpc

Diemand, Kuhlen, Madau 2006




Cosmic Evolution - Cartoon



Well-understood

nonlinear simulations



The Earliest Quasar Detected: z=6.4





the challenge

- How, from a 'beginning' described by a few parameters, did our Universe evolve into its present complexity?
- Can we understand, at a deeper level, why our Universe is the way it is?

1 Gpc/h

Millennium Simulation 10.077.696.000 particles



Can we be certain to recognise Life?

Life might not be based on water and carbon like we are. Might use ammonia as the solvent.

Might use silicon.

The time scale might be much longer or much shorter. Our hearts beat once a second, 2×10^9 times before we die.

FLUCTUATION AMPLITUDE

$$Q \cong 10^{-5} \left(\sim \frac{\Delta T}{T} \right)$$



Bound Systems* with Gravitational Binding Energy QMc^2 (Virial Velocity $Q^{\frac{1}{2}}c$)

Max Non-:Linear Scale

 $Q^{1/2}$ x (Hubble Radius).

*Formation of Bound System Requires Expansion Factor of $>\sim Q^{-1}$ After System Enters Horizon.

AN ANAEMIC UNIVERSE ($Q = 10^{-6}$)

Small loosely-bound galaxies form later than in our universe; star formation is still possible, but processed material is likely to be expelled from shallow potential wells. There may be no secondgeneration stars containing heavy elements, and so no planetary systems at all.

If Q were significantly lower than 10⁻⁶, then gas would be unable to cool with a Hubble time.*

In a Λ -dominated universe, isolated clumps could survive for an infinite time without merging into a larger scale of hierarchy. So eventually, for any $Q > 10^{-8}$, a 'star' could form – but by that time there would be merely one minihalo within the entire event horizon!

UNIVERSE WITH $Q > 10^{-3}$

Monster overdensities (up to 10^{18} M_{\odot}) condense out early enough that they trap the CMB radiation, and collapse as radiation-pressure-dominated hypermassive objects unable to fragment*. This leads to universe of vast holes, clustered on scales up to several percent of Hubble radius (and probably pervaded by intense 'hard' radiation).

It isn't obvious that much baryonic material would ever go into stars. (If so they would be in very compact highly bound systems.)

*This does not require pre-combination collapse. Collapse at (say) 10⁷ years would lead to sufficient partial reionization (via strong shocks) to recouple the baryons and CMB.

POSSIBLE UNIVERSE WITH $Q = 10^{-4}$

*perhaps more interesting than ours!

Masses >~ 10^{14} M_{\odot} condense at 3.10⁸ yrs into huge disc galaxies with orbital velocity ~2000 km/sec (gas would cool efficiently via Compton cooling, leading probably to efficient star formation).

These would, after 10^{10} yrs, be in clusters of $> 10^{16}$ M_{\odot}.

There would be a larger range of non-linear scales than in our actual universe. Only possible 'disfavouring' feature is that stellar systems may be too packed together to permit unperturbed planetary orbits.



the challenges

- What is out there? Cosmic exploration.
- Interpreting phenomena in terms of known (and perhaps 'new') physics.
- How, from a 'simple beginning', did our Universe evolve into its present complexity (stars, planets, people)?
- Can we understand, at a deeper level, why our Universe is the way it is?

The Past and Future of Life on Earth



z=11.9 800 x 600 physical kpc

Diemand, Kuhlen, Madau 2006





Obviously, at the present time we have more than enough to do in order to understand how the world works the way we find it. But I think one must have at least a modicum of curiosity about the strange dimensionless numbers that appear in physics.

There seem to be two lines of attack on questions such as these, the first to demonstrate that the precise numerical values of the dimensionless numbers are all entirely necessary to the logical consistency of physics. The second point of view is that some, if not all, of the numbers in question are fluctuations; that in other places of the universe their values would be different. My inclination is to favour this second point of view. On this second basis the curious placing of the levels in C12 and O16 need no longer have the appearance of astonishing accidents. It could simply be that since creatures like ourselves depend on a balance between carbon and oxygen, we can exist only in the portions of the universe where these levels happen to be correctly placed. In other places the level in O¹⁶ might be a little higher, so that the addition of α-particles to C12 was highly resonant. In such a place oxygen would be overwhelmingly more abundant than carbon, and creatures like ourselves could not exist.

Hoyle "Galaxies, Nuclei & Quasars" 1968





Gliese 581, distance 20 Ly

8 NEWS REVIEW

APRIL 29, 2007 THE SUNDAY TIMES



Earth to aliens: we know where you live

Last week a planet with all the properties for sustaining life was found, and more are on the way, says Jonathan Leake

ton a live years ago the the stuff of science fiction - the domain of writers, film makers and compuand there are a second This sockeed however, ht

mality

ing autonomers are finalizing them and even analyse their search for aben his was "plana in term that search note astroophrees. for the militale games that indicare bit.

Glenn When and Malcolm For the past 10 years they mil-Findlood are the lead scientisty is team of autonomers around for the Darwin massion, a space Europe have been perfecting the releacope so prevented that it designs for Darwin. They are a house in Berkhamsted, Hurt- would be able to spot datanti now collaring that work into a foughting, two of Europe's lead- planent, take phonegraphs of formal proposal for the Euro-

Heat Spane Agency (ESAL. which has already subcated it wants to adopt it as she controsucce of Europe's space tesearch. programme for the next decade. What we will be looking for ivwe less than life most," and White, prolemme uf astronomy at the Open Davenity. "The Dav-

whit remetion will be able to look at many sig to 100 hght years sweet and see of the planets orbiting arcoard them have essived life." ESA's plans for Darwon comean use of the mest eaching innes for plants inmeets. In the past 17 years dis spermised gooup of amontonory has food

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What do we mean by life?

Single-celled



Multi-celled



Conscious



Communicating



Technologically advanced





exoplanet.eu (08/05/07)

Planet Semi-Major Axis (AU)

