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MULTIVERSE VERSUS UNIVERSE

By Matt Promise

Is our universe absolutely unique, or only one of a nearly infinite number of universes (a meta-universe or "multiverse"¹)?

As we seek to observe our own universe, we can see only so far. Four different levels describe our own universe's relationship with supposed other universes:

- **Level 1:** Regions beyond our cosmic horizon. The speed of light limits our ability to see beyond a certain distance from earth, where light simply hasn't had time to reach our telescopes. That makes it impossible to get information at those tremendous distances from us.
- **Level 2:** Other supposed post-inflation bubbles (post inflation meaning after the supposed big bang inflationary period). This level is supposed to include "black hole babies", baby universes, and various possibly interacting "branes. Branes (also sometimes called "membranes" or "p-branes") are theoretical and postulated to consist of ordinary matter confined on a surface that is embedded in a static, higher dimensional spacetime environment. The variable "p" refers to the number of spatial dimensions of the brane, with a 0-brane being a zero-dimensional pointlike particle, a 1-brane being a string, a 2-brane being a "membrane", etc.
- **Level 3:** The many worlds (parallel universes) of quantum physics.
- **Level 4:** Other mathematical structures and laws of physics.²

Other names for a multiverse are "alternative universes", "quantum universes", "interpenetrating dimensions", "parallel worlds", "alternate realities", and "alternative



Is a multiverse the answer to the question of why the universe is so finely tuned for life?

timelines"³, and the list goes on and on. In 1954, Hugh Everett III (Princeton University doctoral candidate), trying to answer why quantum matter behaves erratically,⁴ proposed his idea of parallel universes, just like our universe, that exist outside our ability to observe, branching off from our own universe, with our own universe branching off of others as well.

Science fiction writers often delve into the idea of parallel universes, with *Star Trek's* Captain Kirk trying to convince an "evil" Mr. Spock the virtues of logic and inconsistencies of Vulcan logic being used to support a Federation empire to conquer the Milky Way galaxy, or *Star Wars'* Han Solo traversing hyperspace in the Millennium Falcon, or Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy

³ Multiverse <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiverse>> Accessed 2009 Feb 24

⁴ Clark J, Do parallel universes really exist? <<http://science.howstuffworks.com/parallel-universe.htm>> Accessed 2009 Feb 24

¹ Coined in 1895 by psychologist William James

² Bombelli L, Multiverse Cosmology <<http://www.phy.olemiss.edu/~luca/Topics/cosm/multiverse.html>> Accessed 2009 Feb 24

Pevenise going from our world to another in *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

Twenty-eight years after Everett's parallel universe proposal, the idea of a multiverse (the universe consisting of many universes with different properties) was suggested by Andrei Linde, Professor of Physics, at Stanford University.⁵ One website describes the multiverse idea, saying:

The Multiverse theory for the universe has been a recently accepted theory that describes the continuous formation of universes through the collapse of giant stars and the formation of black holes. With each of these black holes there is a new point of singularity and a new possible universe. As [Sir Martin] Rees [Astronomer Royal of Britain in 1998] describes it, "Our universe may be just one element - one atom, as it were - in an infinite ensemble: a cosmic archipelago. Each universe starts with its own big bang, acquires a distinctive imprint (and its individual physical laws) as it cools, and traces out its own cosmic cycle. The big bang that triggered our entire universe is, in this grander perspective, an infinitesimal part of an elaborate structure that extends far beyond the range of any telescopes." (Rees 3)⁶ This puts our place in the Multiverse into a small spectrum. While the size of the earth in relation to the sun is minuscule, the size of the sun, the solar system, the galaxy, and even the universe, could pale in comparison to this proposed Multiverse. It would be a shift in thinking that may help explain our big bang theory and possibly give light to the idea of parallel universes.⁷

The idea of a multiverse is not to be confused with another idea, that of the Many-Worlds Interpretation, which speaks of alternate worlds with different historical outcomes, while the idea of the multiverse has different universes that have different laws of physics and where life doesn't always exist because conditions for life are not right as they are in our universe.⁸ Our universe is therefore an "accident", where conditions are right for life only because there are supposedly a nearly infinite

⁵ Linde A <<http://www.stanford.edu/~alinde/>> Accessed 2009 Feb 24

⁶ Rees M (1997) *Before the Beginning*. Helix Books, Reading, MA, 3

⁷ Gilbert S, Multiverse Theory <<http://www.astronomy.pomona.edu/Projects/moderncosmo/Sean%27s%20multiverse.html>> Accessed 2009 Feb 24

⁸ Orzel C (2008 Nov 11) Many-World vs. Multiverse <http://scienceblogs.com/principles/2008/11/manyworld_vs_multiverse.php> Accessed 2009 Feb 24

amount of different universes and the law of averages and/or "luck" gave life an opportunity to exist here. God is not allowed in the picture.

That godlessness leads to even more unbiblical ideas. Professor M. R. Franks says, "There is no one reality. Each of us lives in a separate universe. That's not speaking metaphorically. This is the hypothesis of the stark nature of reality suggested by recent developments in quantum physics. Reality in a dynamic universe is non-objective. Consciousness is the only reality."⁹

He denies the basic fact of the existence of reality itself, which goes against the clear and obvious teaching of the Bible and our senses.

Some scientists call the very existence of the universe around us the biggest problem in physics because it requires belief either in some sort of a Creator (the "religious" view) or some form of multiverse (the "scientific" view). The "religious" option is absolutely not an option for many scientists today. Cornelius G. Hunter states in his book, *Science's Blind Spots: The Unseen Religion of Scientific Naturalism*, that, "[s]cience...has revealed a mechanistic world. In fact, **the evidence did not reveal this; rather, the evidence was interpreted this way...** [h]ence theological naturalism mandates *methodological naturalism*—the idea that **science ought to pursue naturalistic explanations**. It is not that there is no god but that **creation must always operate according to uniform natural laws**."¹⁰ I'd like to point out, though, that a multiverse is completely untestable, and therefore fails the scientific test, even though it is touted by many scientists as science.¹¹ [Bold emphasis is the author's.]

For this reason, God, despite the mounting evidence for His existence, and growing problems with purely naturalistic ideas (such as Darwinian evolution and the big bang) must be rejected at *all* costs, in favor of purely naturalistic explanations; that is, if you wish to be a good scientist with funding and support from the National Science Foundation.¹² And so the idea of a multiverse lingers,

⁹ Franks MR (2009) The Universe and Multiple Reality <<http://www.manyuniverses.com/indexH.htm>> Accessed 2009 Feb 24

¹⁰ Hunter CG, (2007) *Science's Blind Spots: The Unseen Religion of Scientific Naturalism*, Brazos Press, Grand Rapids, 30-31

¹¹ Science requires the use of the scientific method, which stated in summary form is: (1) consider the problem and try to make sense of it, (2) form a conjecture, trying to state an explanation, (3) deduce a prediction from that explanation, and (4) test the idea.

¹² Ben Stein, in his 2008 movie, *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, gives several examples of scientists who, despite having excellent records and promising careers, were dis-

without the slightest shred of evidence, while Biblical Creation is rejected as “religious and not scientific”, despite many credible scientists recognizing its validity.

The big question for those who accept only naturalistic explanations for the universe (or, if you will, multiverse), is, “Where did all the matter come from?” Again, defying logic¹³ to embrace the ludicrous,¹⁴ some scientists have postulated the idea that matter came from nothing, almost. See the Lorenz formula in Figure 1.

Figure 1

$$T = \frac{T_o}{\sqrt{1 - (v/c)^2}}$$

Lorentz Formula

T = time measured by observer with phenomenon

T_o = time measured by external observer

v = velocity

c = speed of light.

What happens when v, the velocity of, say, a spaceship, exceeds c, the speed of light as recorded in the denominator of the above fraction? The value within the square root symbol (radical) will be negative (one minus something greater than one), and we will obtain an imaginary number (the square root of a negative number). Some scientists, throwing logic right out the window and in their zeal to reject the idea that God created the entire universe out of nothing, have postulated that, based on the above scenario, imaginary time—whatever that is—comes into being.

So, how valid is such an idea of an alternate universe? Why does such an idea even exist? And can such an idea ever be proved? And what does the Word of God have to say about such ideas?

Although Scripture never explicitly speaks of any universe other than our own (called “the heavens” in the Bible), it is clear in Genesis 1:1ff that in the beginning of time, the beginning of all things, God created the heavens (the entire universe) and the earth. And someday this

credited merely for mentioning Biblical Creation or questioning Darwinian Evolution.

¹³ I strongly believe that our young people (and we as well) desperately need to study or be taught formal Logic, “The study of the principles of valid demonstration and inference” or simply “How to think well” to recognize bad arguments from those professing to be teaching science and to make good arguments as teachers themselves.

¹⁴ One of the most basic and essential laws of Logic is the Law of Non-contradiction: “It is not possible that something be both true and not true at the same time and in the same context.”

universe will be cleansed with fire (2 Peter 3:10-13). According to Matthew 1:21, there is also no indication that Jesus died for any creature in this universe other than His people. He did not die for angels or animals or for Klingons, Romulans, or Vulcans for that matter. There is also no indication that Jesus died for any creatures, intelligent or otherwise, in any other supposed universe. Men, and men alone, are redeemed by the blood of Christ. And finally, according to Revelation 21:1, heaven will one day be seen by the apostle John coming down out of heaven from God, onto the new earth, in our universe. The Bible makes no mention of anyone from any other universes praising Him night and day, but only men and angels. Will you be ready in that day, trusting in Christ for salvation from your sin? ☞

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, March 12, 7:00 P.M., Providence Baptist Church, 6339 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, Room 631
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