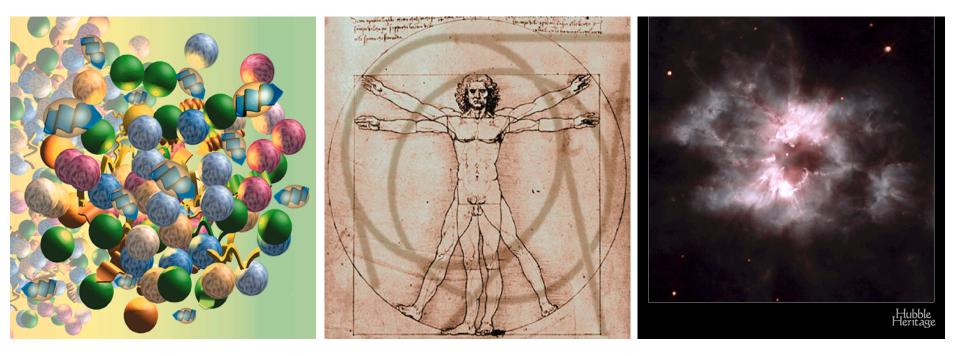
Big [unanswered] **questions** ... but hopefully not for long



2nd Thematic CERN School of Computing Split, 15 – 20 June 2014

Ivica Puljak FESB – Split

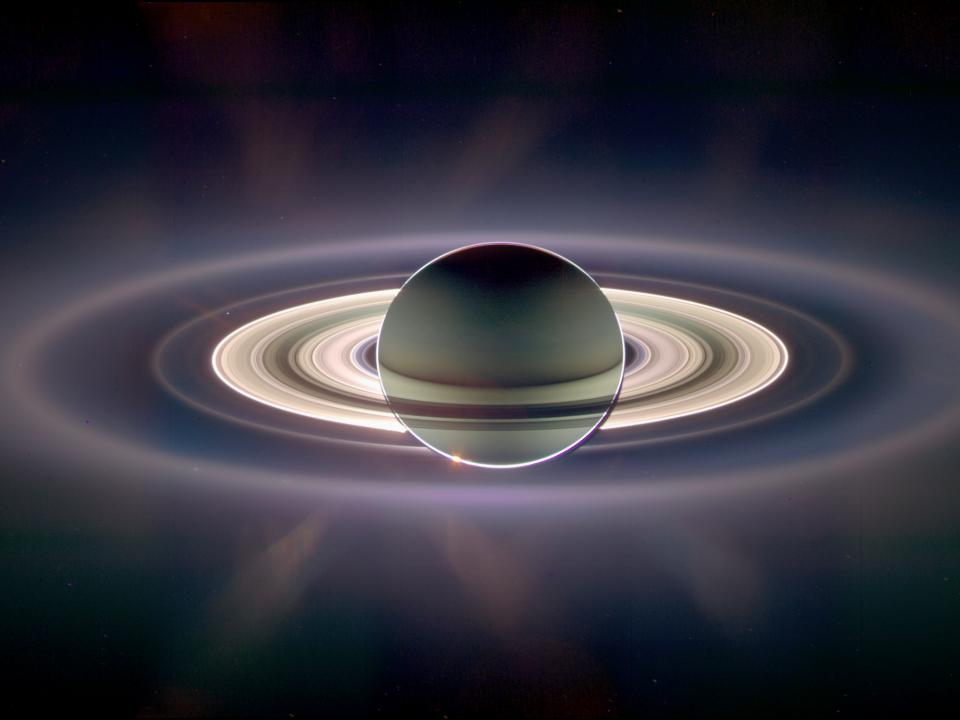
Do we know anything?

- "We can know only that we know nothing. And that is the highest degree of human wisdom."
 - Leo Tolstoy, War and Peace
- > Is it really like that?









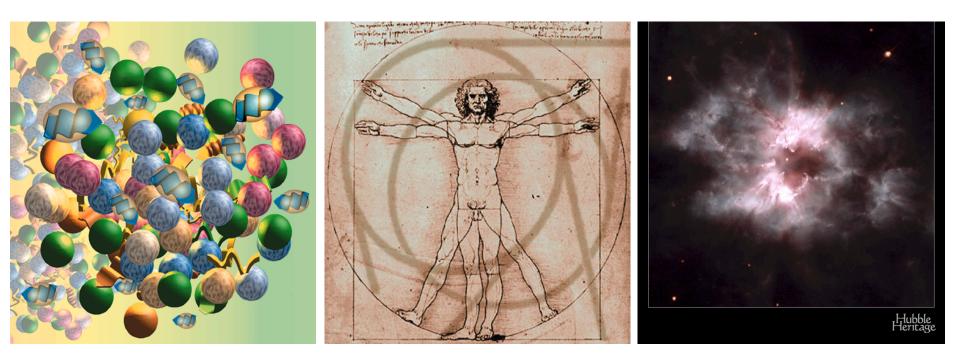
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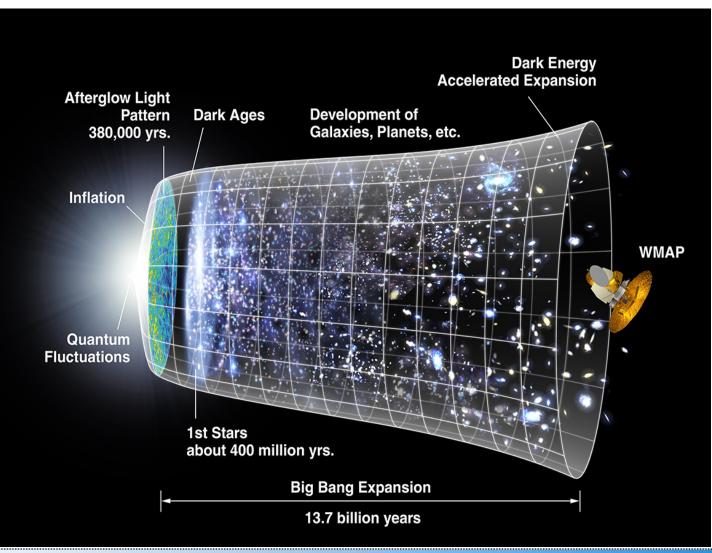
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100 bilions

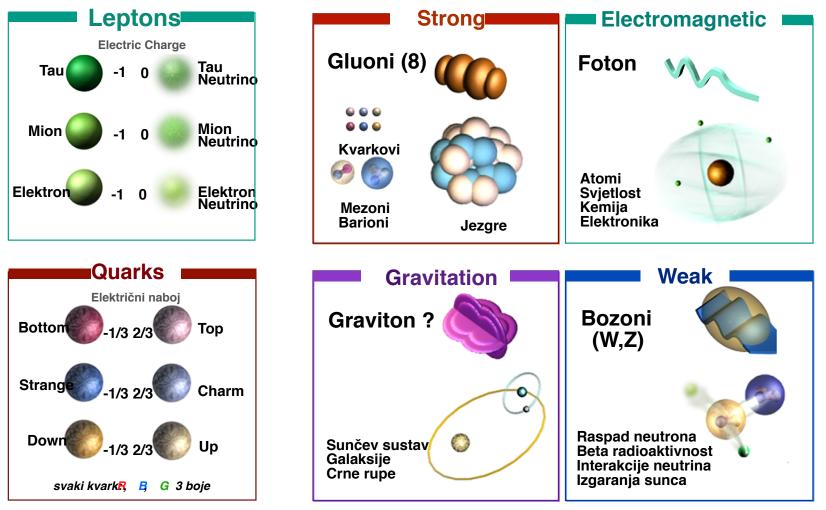
100 bilions



> Evolution of the Universe



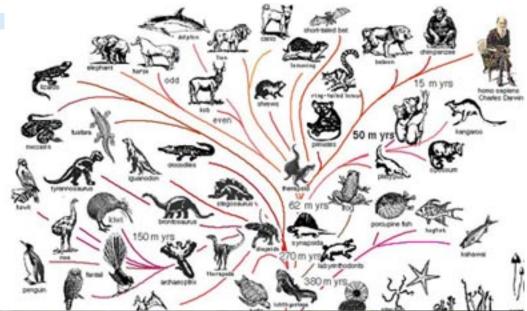
Standard Model of particles and their interactions

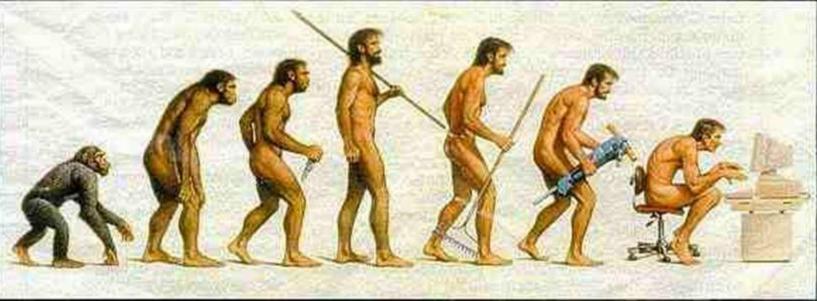


The particle drawings are simple artistic representations

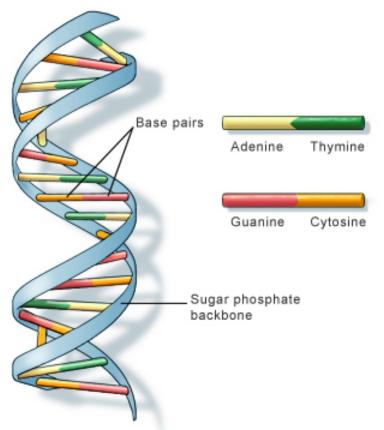
11

Darwin's theory of natural selection

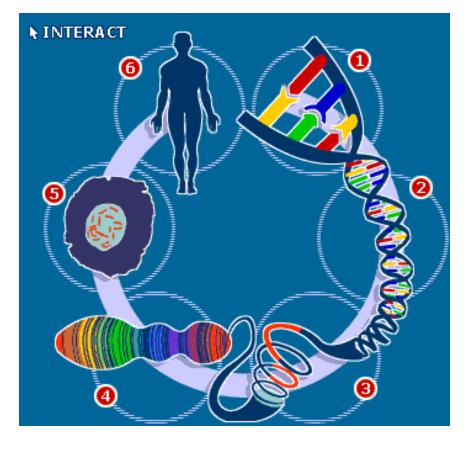


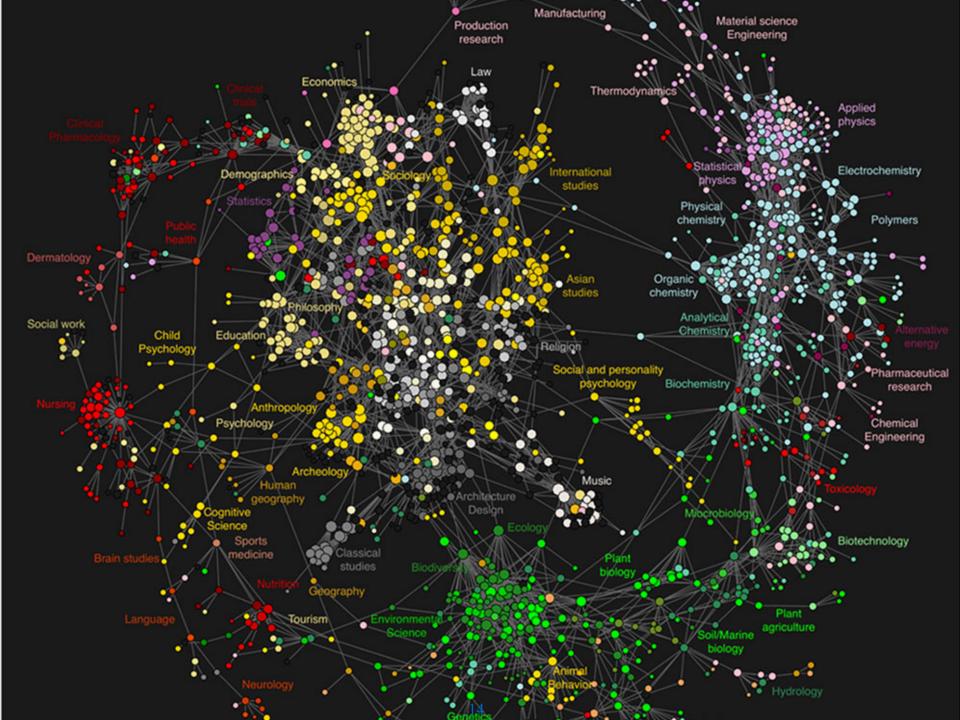


> DNA



U.S. National Library of Medicine







- > What Is the Universe Made Of?
- What is the Biological Basis of Consciousness?
- > Why Do Humans Have So Few Genes?
- To What Extent Are Genetic Variation and Personal Health Linked?
- Can the Laws of Physics Be Unified?
- How Much Can Human Life Span Be Extended?
- What Controls Organ Regeneration?
- How Can a Skin Cell Become a Nerve Cell?
- How Does a Single Somatic Cell Become a Whole Plant?
- How Does Earth's Interior Work?
- > Are We Alone in the Universe?
- How and Where Did Life on Earth Arise?
- > What Determines Species Diversity?
- What Genetic Changes Made Us Uniquely Human?



- How Are Memories Stored and Retrieved?
- How Did Cooperative Behavior Evolve?
- How Will Big Pictures Emerge from a Sea of Biological Data?
- How Far Can We Push Chemical Self-Assembly?
- > What Are the Limits of Conventional Computing?
- Can We Selectively Shut Off Immune Responses?
- Do Deeper Principles Underlie Quantum Uncertainty and Nonlocality?
- Is an Effective HIV Vaccine Feasible?
- How Hot Will the Greenhouse World Be?
- What Can Replace Cheap Oil -- and When?
- > Will Malthus Continue to Be Wrong?
- Is Ours the Only Universe?
- What Drove Cosmic Inflation?
- When And How Did the First Stars and Galaxies Form?

 \succ



What's so weird about prime numbers? How do we beat bacteria? Can computers keep getting faster? Will we ever cure cancer? When can I have a robot butler? What's at the bottom of the ocean? What's at the bottom of a black hole? How do we get more energy from the sun? How do we solve the population problem?

Is time travel possible?

Why do we dream?

Why is there stuff?

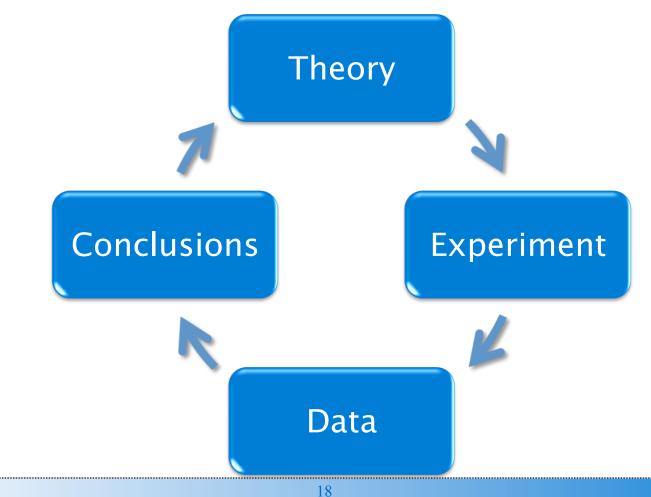
Are there other universes?

Where do we put all the carbon?

What are we absolutely convinced about?

In that the answer to these and many other questions will be found only by ...

THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD



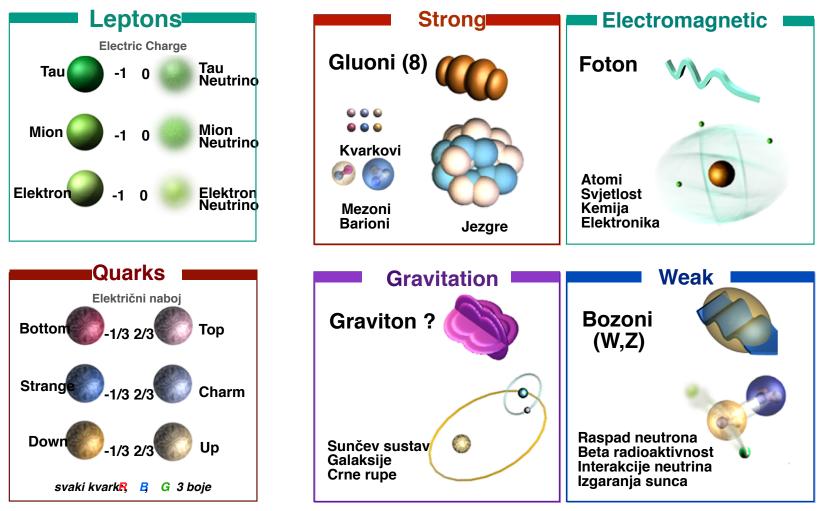


SO YOU'RE TELLING ME

PEOPLE FROM YOUR COUNTRY THINK THAT FACEBOOK GIVES US FOOD FOR EVERY LIKE

What is the universe made of?

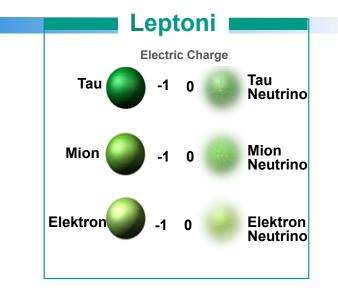
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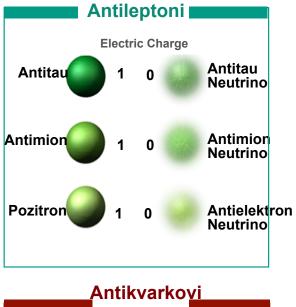
22

Particles





Antiparticles





100 bilions

100 bilions

Dark energy 74%

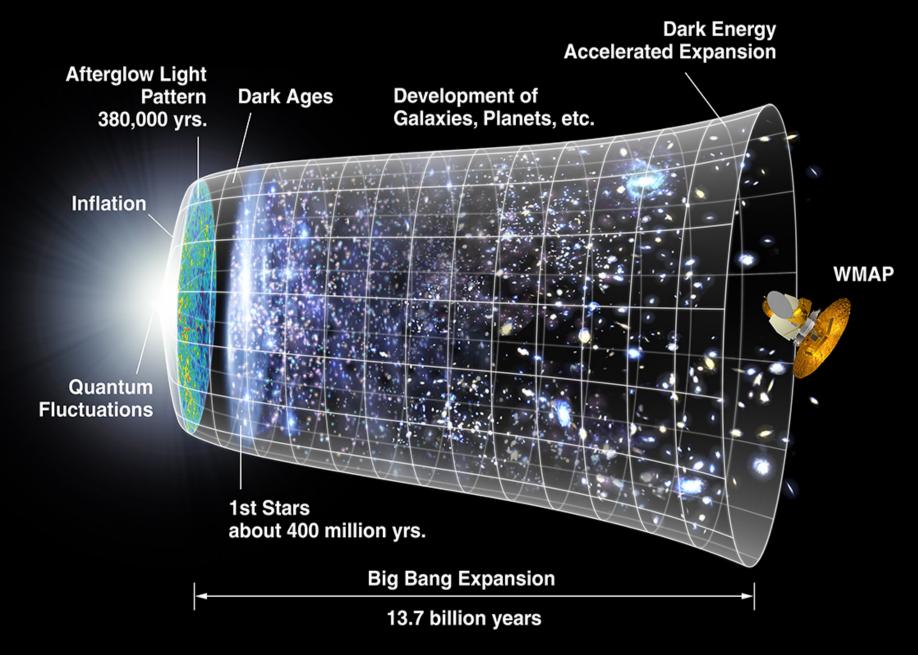
"Normal matter"

4%

Dark matter 22%

How do we know that?

From the Big bang to today



10⁻⁴³s Quantum gravitation era



$t < 10^{-43}$ s : The Big Bang

The universe is considered to have expanded from a single point with an infinitely high energy density (infinite temperature). Is there a meaning to the question what existed before the big bang?

t - 10⁻⁴³ s, 10³² K (10¹⁹ GeV, 10⁻³⁴ m) : Gravity <u>-freezes</u>" out

All particle types (quarks, leptons, gauge bosons, and undiscovered particles e.g.Higgs, sparticles, gravitons) and their anti-particles are in a thermal equilibrium (being created and annihilated at equal rate). These coexist with photons (radiation).

Through a phase transition gravity "froze" out and became distinct in its action from the weak, electromagnetic and strong forces. The other three forces could not be distinguished from one another in their action on quarks and leptons. This is the first instance of the breaking of symmetry amongst the forces.

10⁻³⁵ s Grand unification era



t - 10⁻³⁵ s, 10²⁷ K (10⁶ GeV, 10³² m) : Inflation

The rate of expansion increases exponentially for a short period. The universe doubled in size evesy hteration stopped at around³¹9. The universe increased in size by a factor of 10 This is equivalent to an object the size of a proton swelling to⁹¹0 pht years across.

However the presently visible

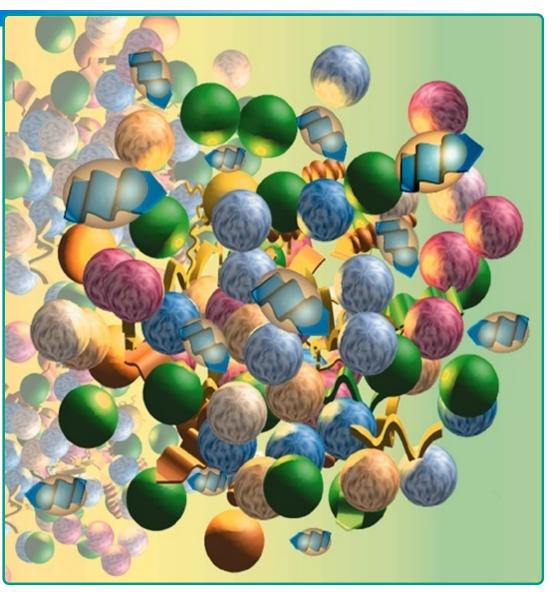
universe was only 3 m in size after inflation. This solves the problems of 'horizon' (how is it possible for two opposing parts of the present universe to be at the same temperature when they cannot have interacted with each other before recombination) and 'flatness' (density of matter is close to the critical density).

t - 10⁻³² s : Strong forces freezes out

Through another phase transition the strong force "freezes" out and a slight excess of matter over anti-matter develops. This excess, at a level of 1 part in a billion, is sufficient to give the presently observed predominance of matter over anti-matter. The temperature is too high for quarks to remain clumped to form neutrons or protons and so exist in the form of a quark gluon plasma. The LHC can study this by colliding together high energy nuclei.

29-

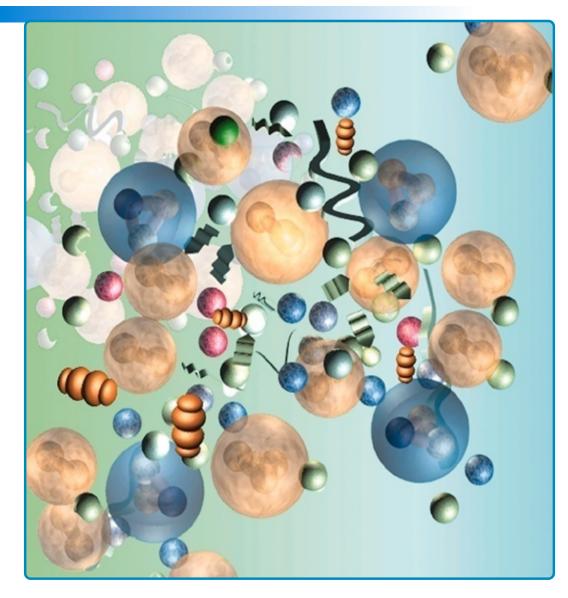
10⁻¹⁰ s Elektroweak era



t - 10 ⁻¹⁰ s, 10¹⁵ K (100 GeV, 10⁻¹⁸ m) : Electromagnetic and Weak Forces separate

The energy density corresponds to that at LEP. As the temperature fell the weak force "freezes" out and all four forces become distinct in their actions. The antiquarks annihilate with the quarks leaving a residual excess of matter. W and Z bosons decay. In general unstable massive particles disappear when the temperture falls to a value at which photons from the black-body radiation do not have sufficient energy to create a particle-antiparticle pair.

10⁻⁴ s Making protons and neutrons



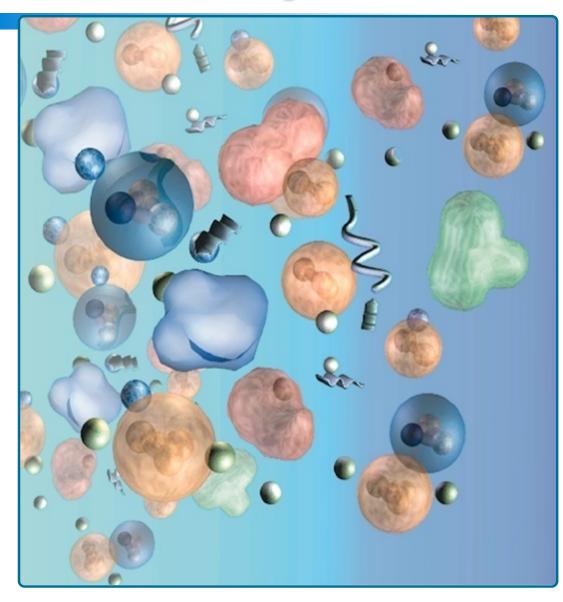
t - 10⁻⁴ s, 10¹³ K (1 GeV, 10⁻¹⁶ m) : Protons and Neutrons form

The universe has grown to the size of our solar system. As the temperature drops quark-antiquark annihilation stops and the remaining quarks combine to make protons and neutrons.

t = 1 s, 10¹⁰ K (1 MeV, 10⁻¹⁵ m) : Neutrinos decouple

The neutrinos become inactive (essentially do not participate further in interactions). The electrons and positrons annihilate and are not recreated. An excess of electrons is left. The neutron-proton ratio shifts from 50:50 to 25:75.

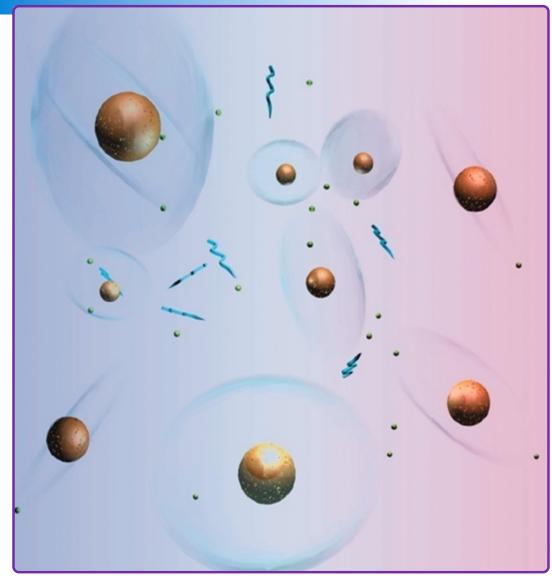
100 s Making nuclei



t = 3 minutes, 10^9 K (0.1 MeV, 10^{-12} m) : Nuclei are formed

The temperature is low enough to allow nuclei to be formed. Conditions are similar to those that exist in stars today or in thermonuclear bombs. Heavier nuclei such as deuterium, helium and lithium soak up the neutrons that are present. Any remaining neutrons decay with a time constant of ~ 1000 seconds. The neutron-proton ratio is now 13:87. The bulk constitution of the universe is now in place consisting essentially of protons (75%) and helium nuclei. The temperature is still too high to form any atoms and electrons form a gas of free particles.

300000 years Atoms and light era



t = 300 000 years, 6000 K (0.5 eV, 10⁻¹⁰ m) : Atoms are created

Electrons begin to stick to nuclei. Atoms of hydrogen, helium and lithium are created. Radiation is no longer energetic enough to break atoms. The universe becomes transparent. Matter density dominates. Astronomy can study the evolution of the Universe back to this time.

1000 M years

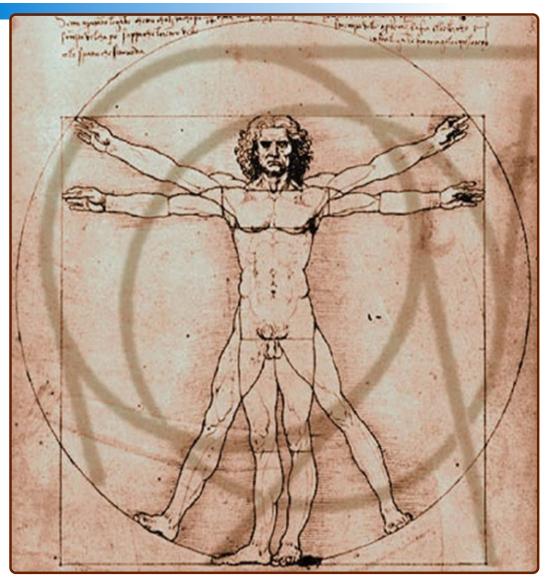
Making galaxies



t = 10⁹ years, 18 K : Galaxy Formation

Local mass density fluctuations act as seeds for stellar and galaxy formation. The exact mechanism is still not understood. Nucleosynthesis, synthesis of heavier nuclei such as carbon up to iron, starts occurring in the thermonuclear reactors that are stars. Even heavier elements are synthesized and dispersed in the brief moment during which stellar collapse and supernovae explosions occur.

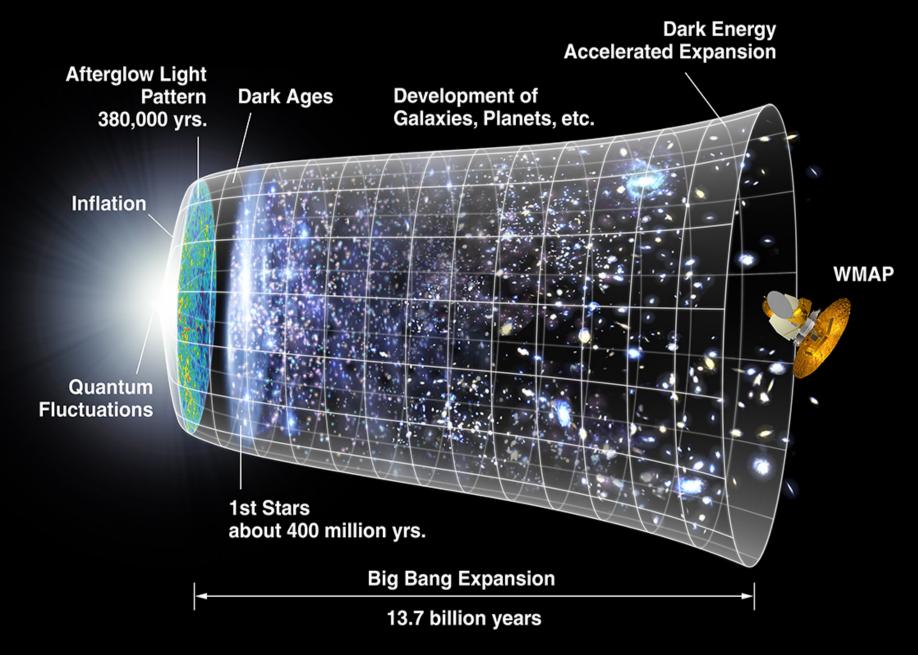
15000 M years Today



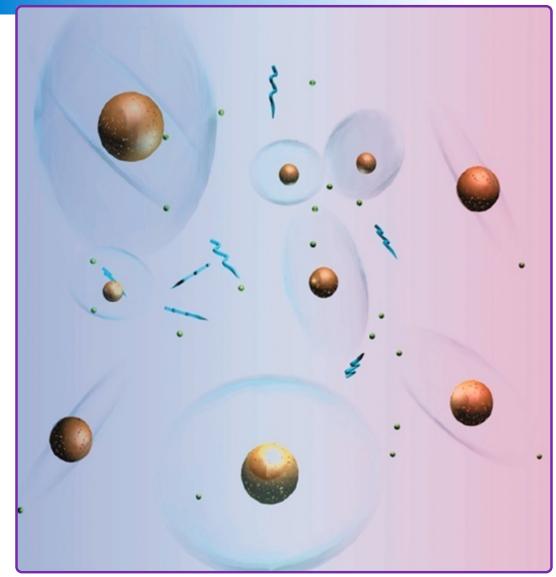
t = 15 x 10⁹ years, 3 K : Humans

The present day. Chemical processes have linked atoms to form molecules. From the dust of stars and through coded messages (DNA) humans emerge to observe the universe around them.

From the Big bang to today



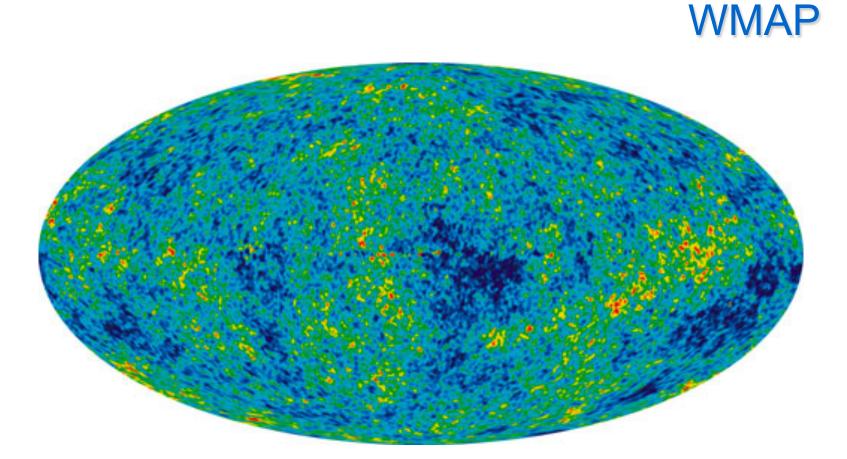
300000 years Atomi i era svjetla



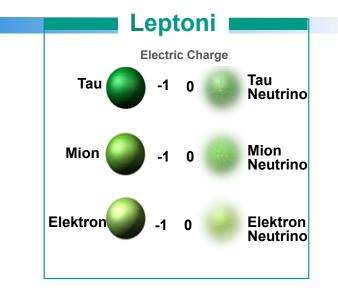
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Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe

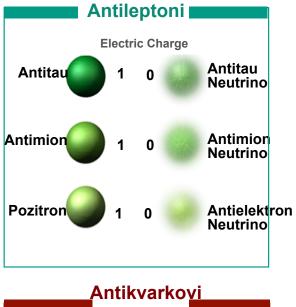


Particles



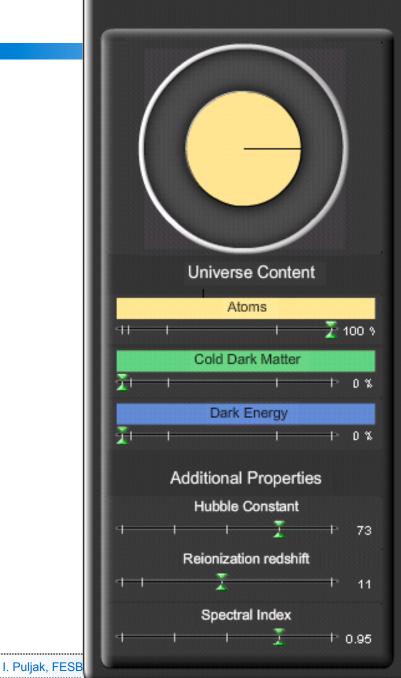


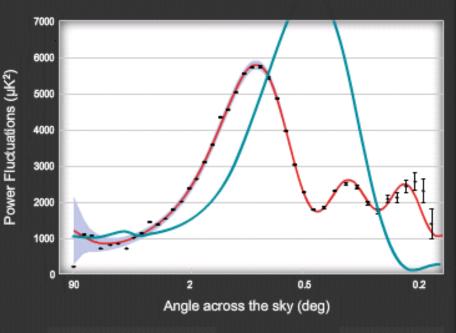
Antiparticles





WMAP CMB Analyzer





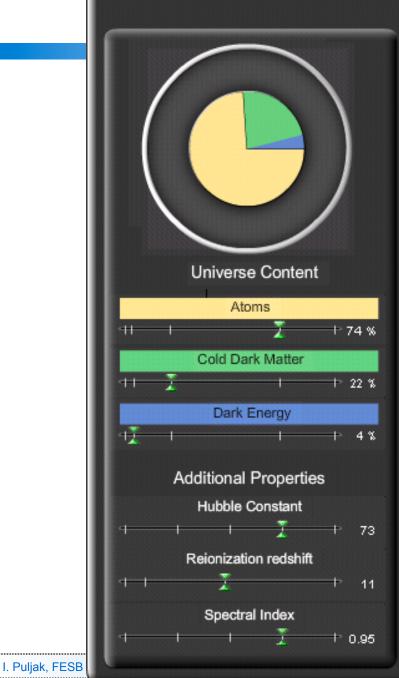
Age: 9.1 billion years

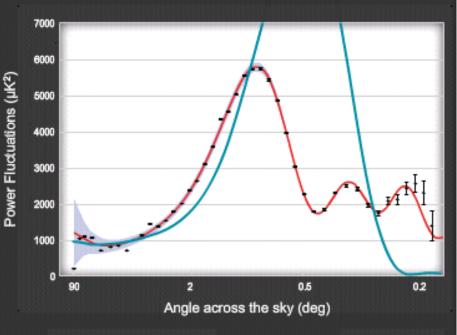
Flatness: 1.00

Power Spectrum Plot: This plot shows how temperature varies with the angular size of patches on the sky. This reveals the energy emitted by different size ripples of sound traveling through the early universe.

- Red line = analyzed sky / universe signal.
- Blue line = your simulated sky / universe signal.
- Black points with error bars = 'binned' (grouped) data to analyze data accuracy.
- Light blue area = likelihood of results being caused by random chance- only a concern at large scale (left).

WMAP CMB Analyzer





Age: 9.2 billion years

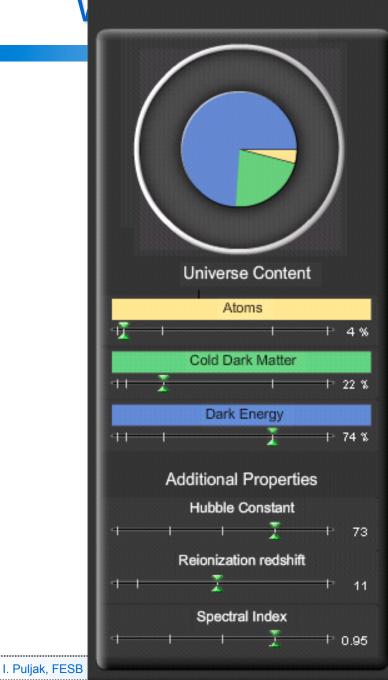
Flatness: 1.00

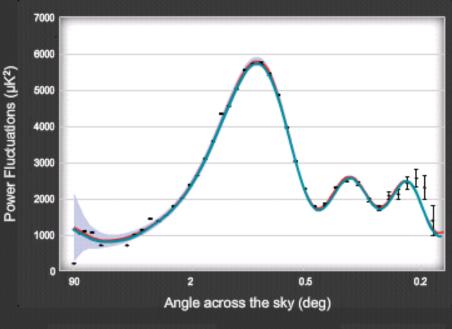
Pie Chart: Graphically shows the composition of your universe. The wedges compare the amount of each component; the size of the pie compares the total composition (matter + dark matter + dark energy) with the critical density (black circle).

- A universe at critical density is geometrically flat and probably infinite.
- A universe can have more or less than the critical density.
- Flatness the term we use for closeness to critical density.



WMAP CMB Analyzer





Age: 13.7 billion years

Flatness: 1.00

Pie Chart: Graphically shows the composition of your universe. The wedges compare the amount of each component; the size of the pie compares the total composition (matter + dark matter + dark energy) with the critical density (black circle).

- A universe at critical density is geometrically flat and probably infinite.
- A universe can have more or less than the critical density.
- Flatness the term we use for closeness to critical density.

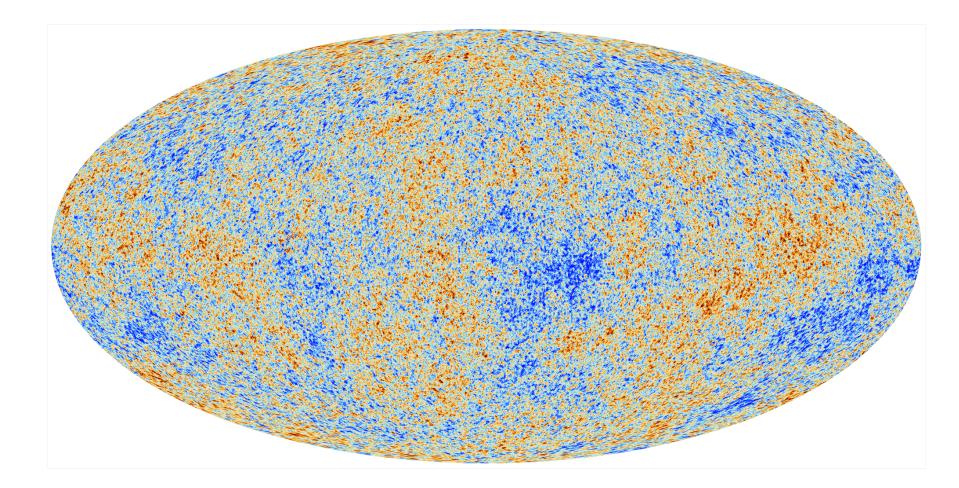
Dark energy 74%

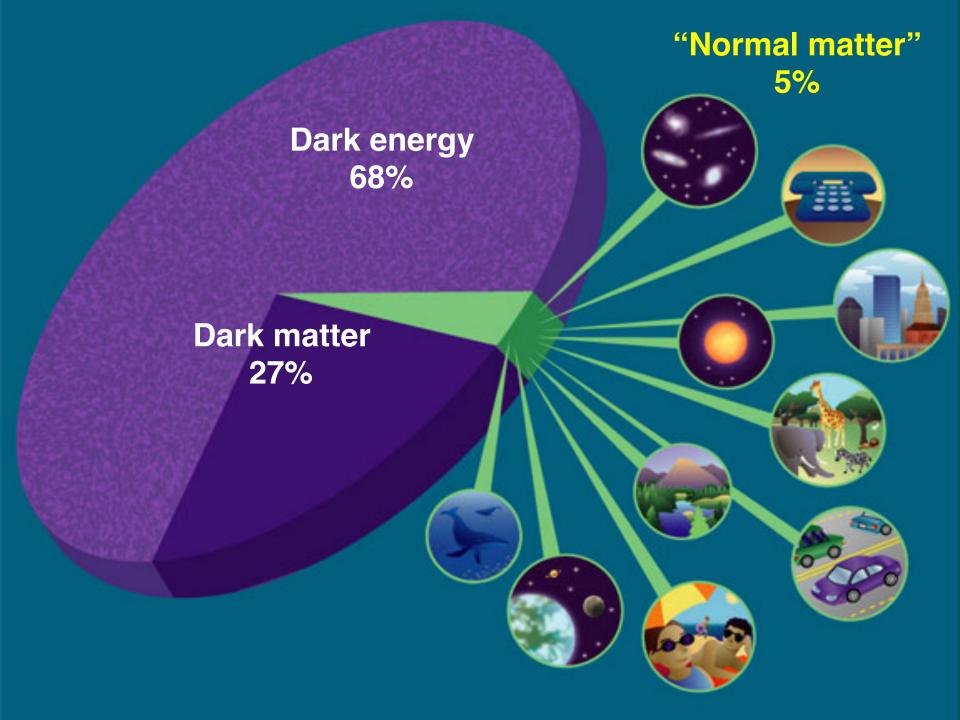
"Normal matter"

4%

Dark matter 22%

Breaking news: Planck satelite





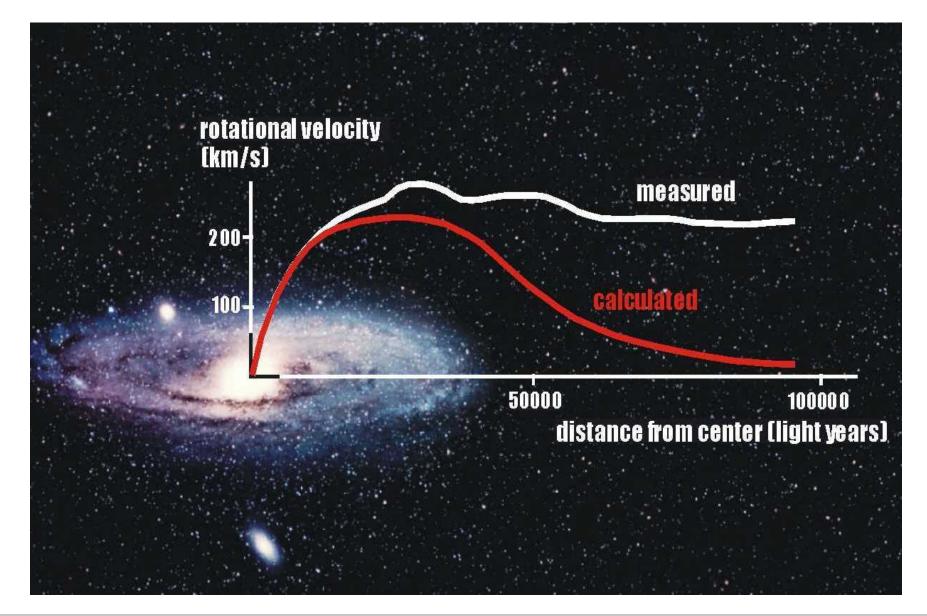
100 bilions

ALL THIS IS ONLY 5% OF THE UNIVERSE!

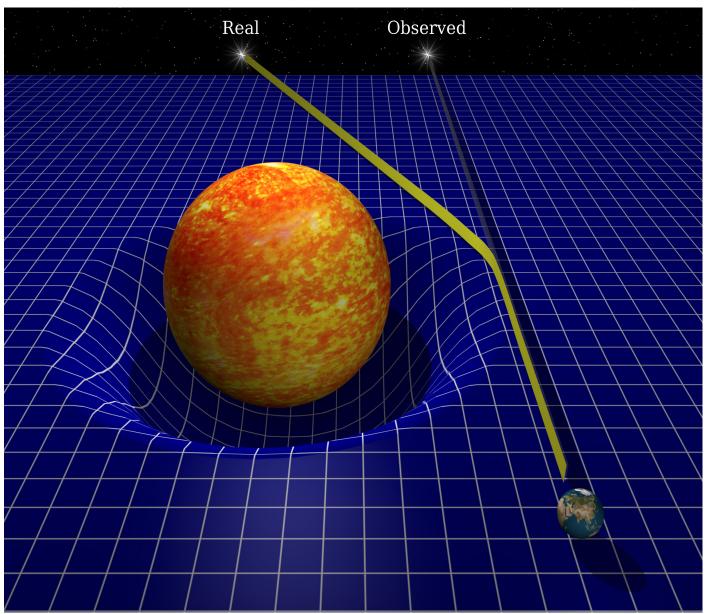
100 bilions

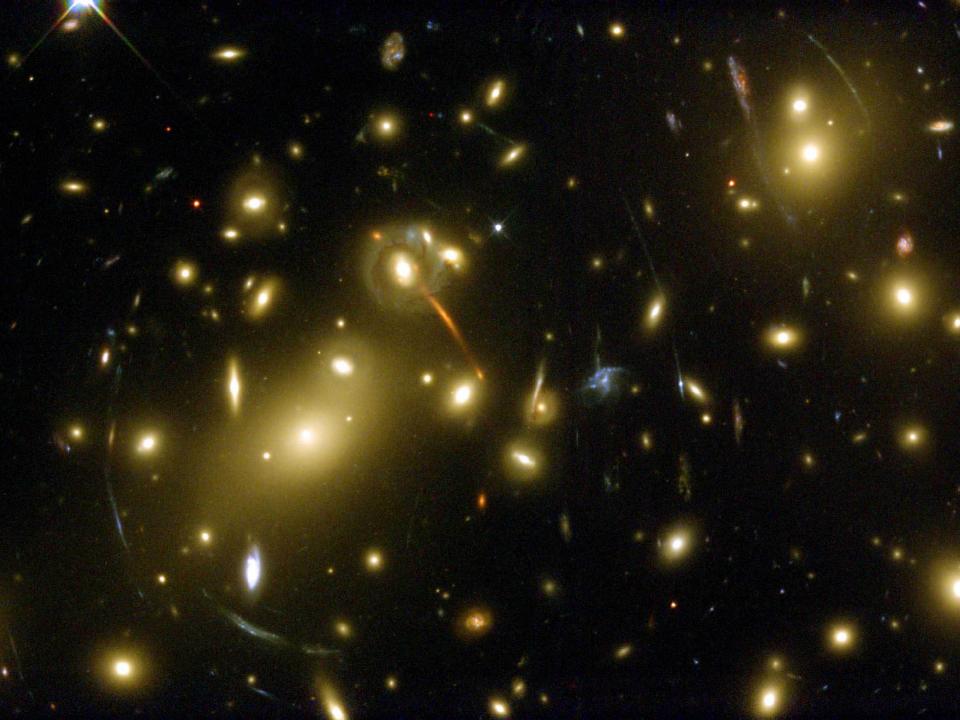


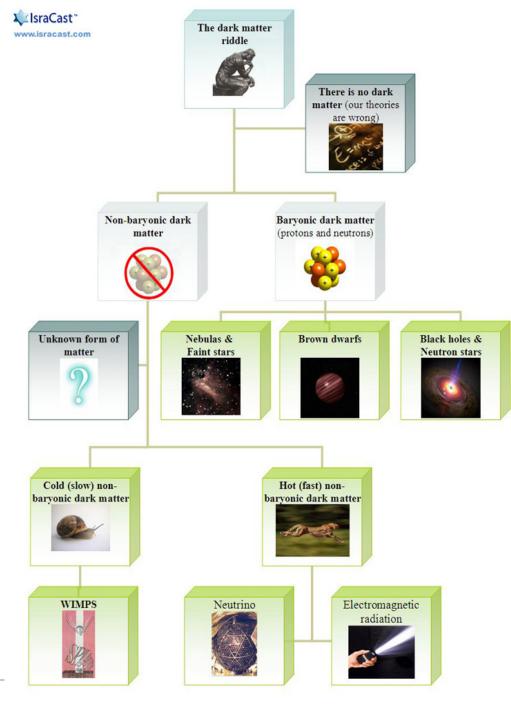
Dark matter: rotational velocity of stars in galaxies

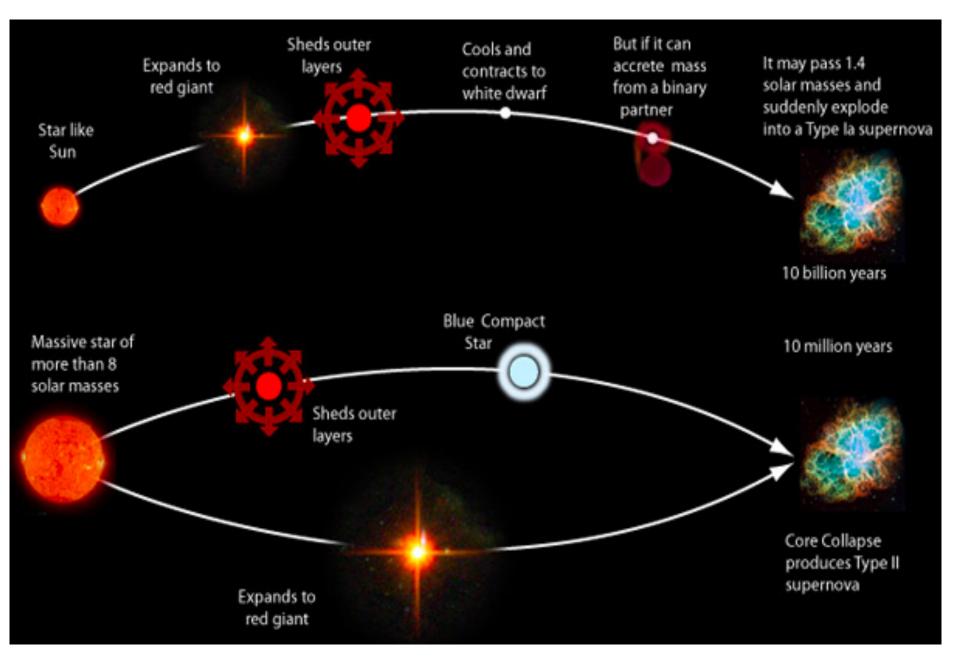


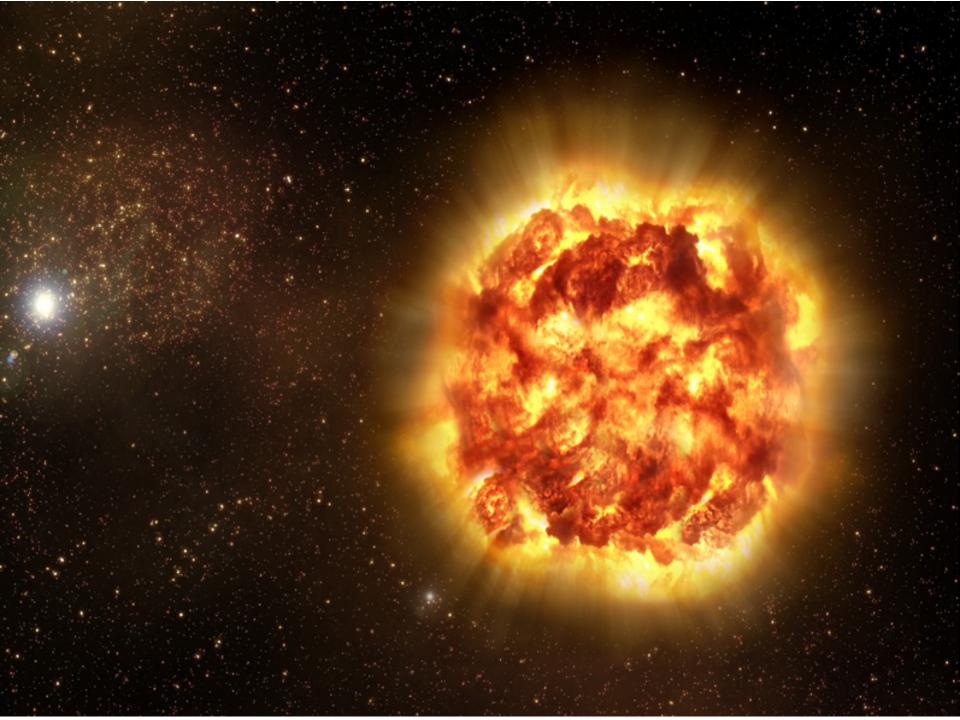
Dark matter: gravitational lensing

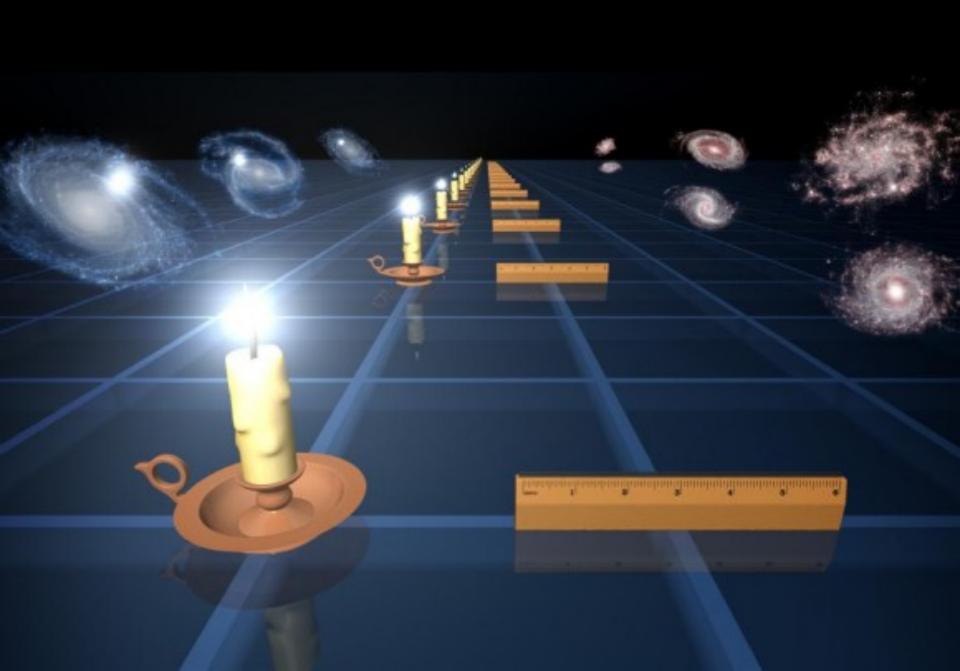




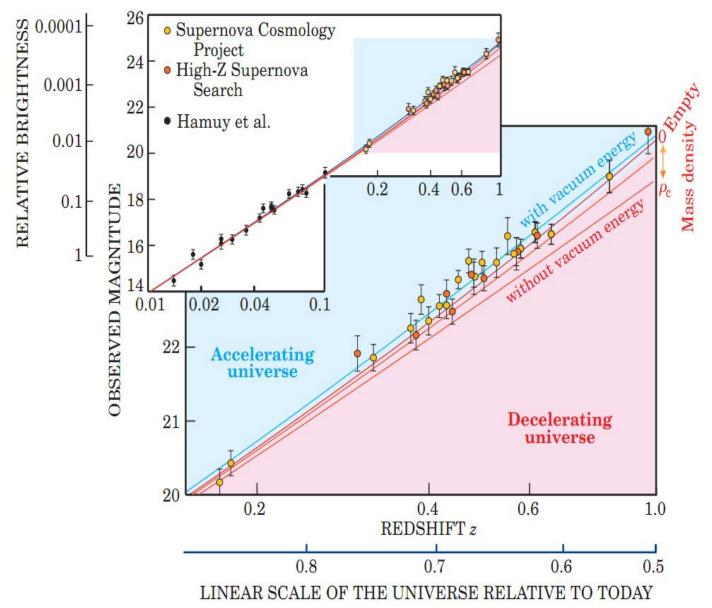


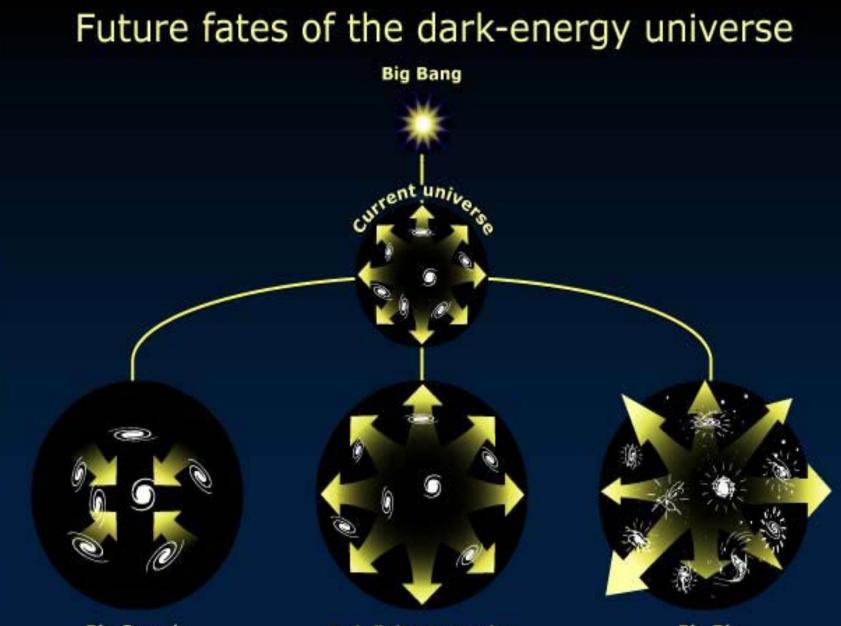






Dark energy from supernovas

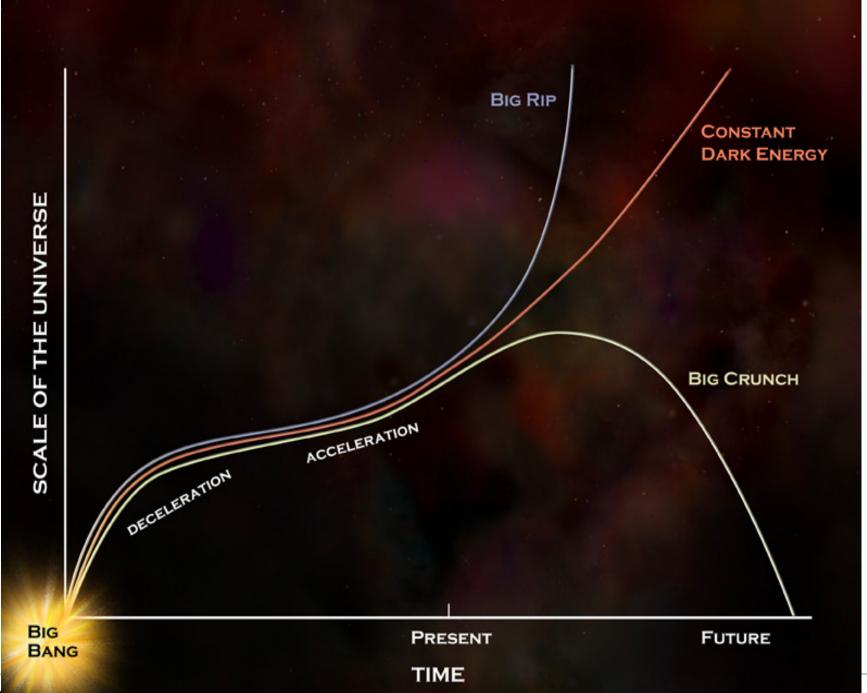




Big Crunch Quintessence in which dark energy reverses

Indefinite expansion Cosmological constant

Big Rip Quintessence in which dark energy destabilizes



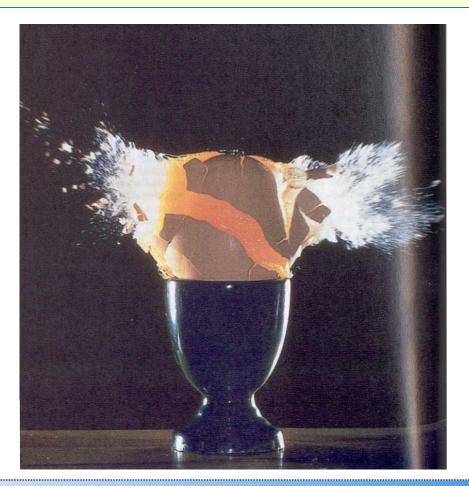
Is time an illusion?

-

Is time an illusion?

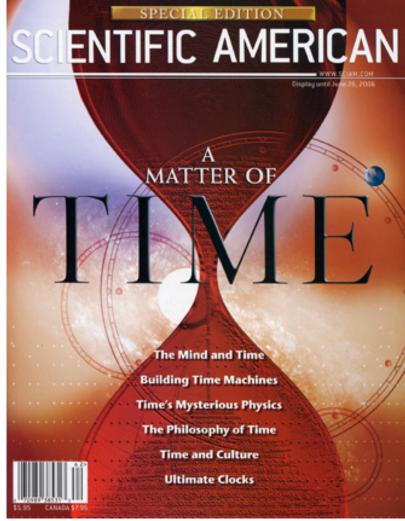
"Time is God's way of keeping everything from happening at once"

Uknown



Is time an illusion?

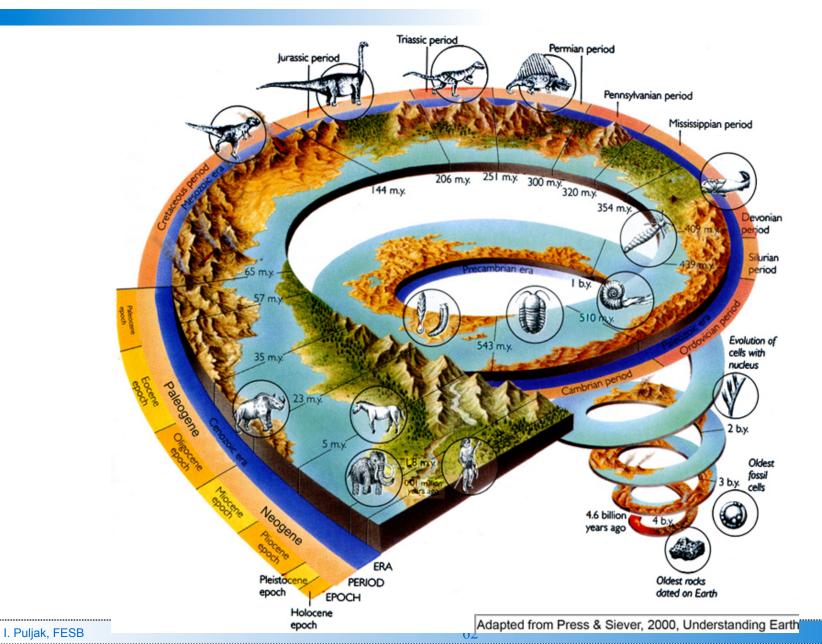
- Our senses tell us that time flows: namely, that the past is fixed, the future undetermined, and reality lives in the present. Yet various physical and philosophical arguments suggest otherwise."
- "The passage of time is probably an illusion. Consciousness may involve thermodynamic or quantum processes that lend the impression of living moment by moment."
- "TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, neither scientists nor philosophers really know what time is or why it exists. The best thing they can say is that time is an extra dimension akin (but not identical) to space. For example, the twodimensional orbit of the moon through space can be thought of as a three-dimensional corkscrew through spacetime. "



P. Davies

When and how did life appear on Earth?

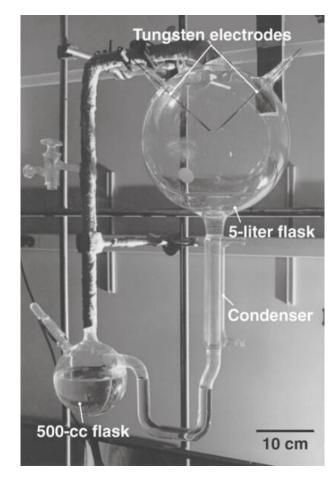
Approach 1: from today back ...



Approach 2: Start with early Earth, cca 4.5 bilion years ago, and look how the lifeless molecules self-organized to the living matter

[Some] results

- Microbs fossils 3.4 bilion years old
- Chemical analysis of old rocks suggests that organisms with photosyntesis were widespread on Earth 3.7 bilion years ago
- All living organisms on Earth code their information in DNA and use protens as catalists for chemical reactions
- But what was before: proteins or DNA?
 - Experiments suggest: the first was RNA
 - The life first has its "RNA phase" and then transformed to the form we see today
- > 1953: Stanly Miller i Harold Urey, University of Chicago
 - Electric current through the mix of ammonia, methane, hydrogen and water wapor, simulating the early Earth atmosphere, produced amino acids and other building blocks of life



When and how did life appear on Earth?



OR IT CAME WITH COMETS?





65

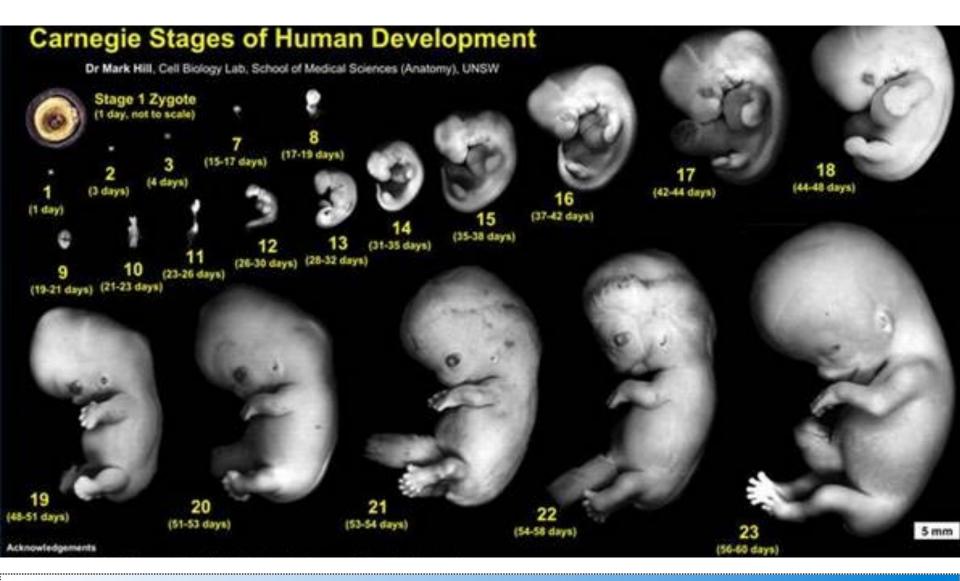
How does a fertilized egg become a living being?

How does a fertilized egg become a living being?



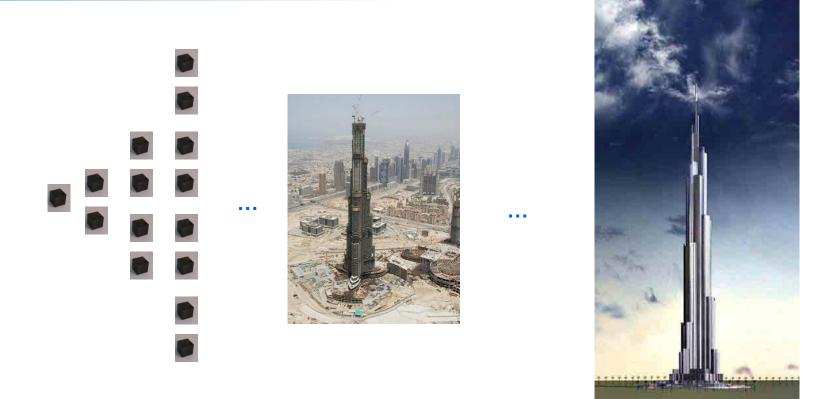


But this it the way nature creates us!



I. Puljak, FESB

How does a fertilized egg become a living being?



- > Biologists first thought that proteins carry the building instructions
- Now it looks that proteins are something like rocks useless without the building plan
- Instructions are probably written in DNA but nobody knows how to exactly read them

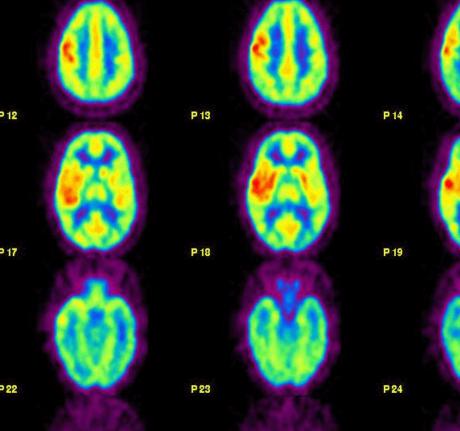
How does a brain generate consciousness?

A BRAIN, A PIECE OF GRAY MASS – CCA 1.5 KG

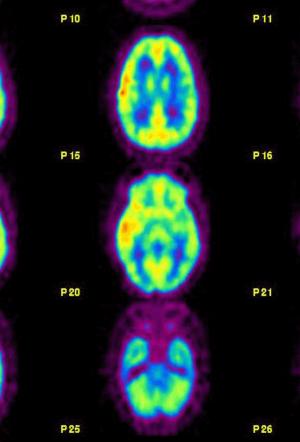
IN SOME WAY PUTS YOU INTO YOU

No one knows how!

RELATION MIND-BODY: A CENTRAL PROBLEM IN PSYHOLOGY, UNTIL ...



P 28



... IT STARTED TO BE STUDIED WITH PROPER TOOLS

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P 29

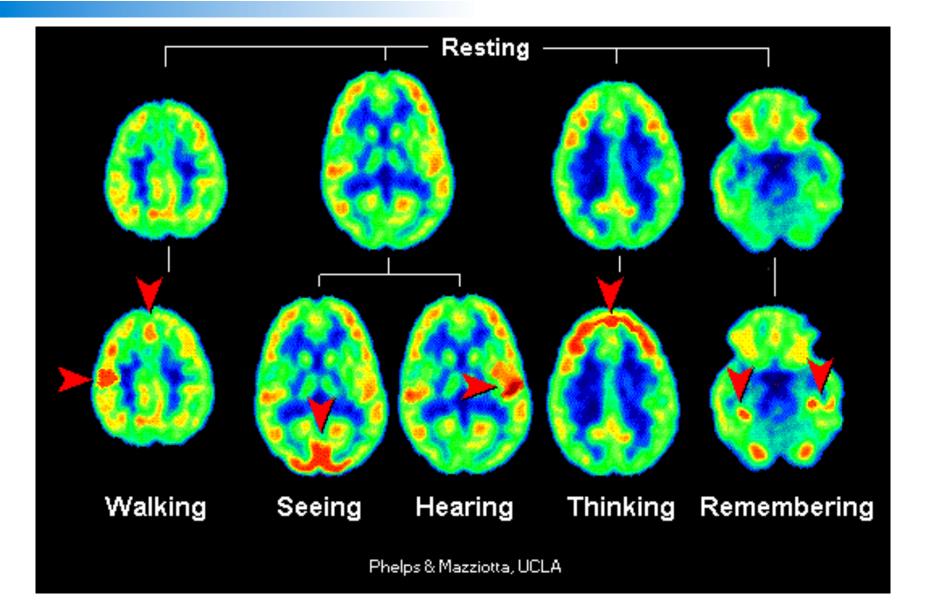
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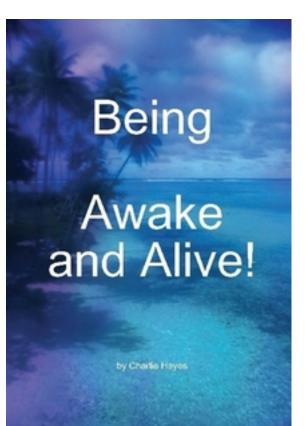
MRI & PET scaners: measuring brain activity



73

How does a brain generate consciousness?

- > Traditional questions:
 - Is concsciousness = awakeness?
 - Is concsciousness = personality?
- > Many theories about consciousness:
 - Antonio Damasio: self-consciousness evolved as regulatory mechanism, as a way in which brain understands what's going on in a body
 - Cristoph Koch: people have "consiousness neurons"
 - Bernard Baars: consciousness is a controling input for unconscious mechanisms like working memory, meaning of words, visual memory, study process ...



SOME PHILOSOPHERS ARE MAYBE STILL SENTIMENTAL AND THINKS THAT CONCIOUSNESS IS ABOVE THE MATTER

SCIENTISTS LIVE TO REDUCE WHAT IS APPARENTLY UNREDUCIBLE

AND LEAVE SENTIMENTS OUTSIDE THE LABS @

http://fineartamerica.com/featured/soul-our-conscious-richard-hubal.html.

100

(INF

UNDERSTANDING CONCIOUSNESS MEANS LOOKING FOR BIOPHYSICAL MECHANISMS FOR ITS APPEARANCE

SOMEWHERE BEHIND YOUR EYES, THAT PIECE OF FLESH BECOMES YOUR MIND!

How Much Can Human Life Span Be Extended?

lan on living

So far, so good

How Much Can Human Life Span Be Extended?

- > Jeanne Calment, died in 1997, with 122 longest living human
- Experiments show that soon human life span will be between 100 and 110 years
 - In industrial countries 1 in 10 000 people lives more than 100 years
- Some ways to extend the life span with animals:
 - Lower calories intake
 - Reducing the growth factor (IGF-1)
 - Preventing the tissue oxidation
- > All three reasons are probably interconnected (not yet proven)
- > Can these strategies help humans to extend their life span?
- And do they want it?
- > There are genetic studies on cousins that live longer
- > Many scientists think that life span has a natural upper limit
- > There are also many ethical questions: who can afford it?
- > In close future some less drastic strategies:
 - Fighting the cardio-vascular disseases
 - Cancer prevention
 - • • •

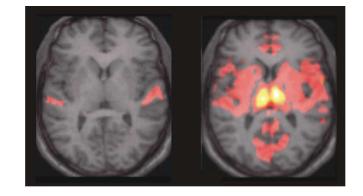


Why do we sleep?

Why do we sleep?

- All mamals sleep
 - And if they don't they die
 - Faster than if they don't eat
- But no one knows WHY!
- > Obviousle: by sleeping we rest our body
 - But by watching the TV we do the same I
- Leading theory about sleeping says:
 - While we are awake, some substances in a brain are created (some dissapear), and while we sleep the reverse process takse place
 - During the night, free from conciousness processes (altough not completely), a brain can focus on cleaning
- This theory has a problem to accomodate the REM phase, in which a brain is very active:
 - A phase of memory consolidation
 - But on contrary, pacients without REM phase did have problems with memory ...





And yet we have to explain the dreams 😊

Why do we die?

Why do we die?

- If you ask physicist: because of the 2nd law of thermodynamics!
- Biologists go in more details: maybe free radicals destroy our DNA, or thelomerases gets shorter and shorter
- But maybe the best is to ask ecologists!
- > They calculate roughly:
 - Large species have slower energy distribution systems
 - Therefore they have slower metabolism
 - And that means logner life
- Both mouse and whale have the same number of heart beats: about 100 milion
 - Mouse has it distributed over 2 years
 - And whale over 80 years
- But why do we, humans, leave that long, while we are closer to mouse than to whale?
- Maybe because we are smarter
 - Really?
- Maybe the part of the answer is in looking how much energy is spent on the brain development and function of a, with respect to the resto of our body





Why do we die?

We all still have some time to find out ©

What happend to Neathertals?

Što se dogodilo Neandertalcima?

- Bili su naši susjedi
- I to vrlo slični: izgledali kao mi, hodali kao mi, čak su možda i mislili poput nas
- > Zašto su onda nestali?
- A mi ostali …
- Što ih je uništilo?
- Bili su vrlo slični našim direktnim prethodnicima Cro-Magnonima
 - Možda malo veći, mišičaviji i s većim mozgom
 - I vjerojatno su se miješali
- > Prije cca 30 000 godina, odjednom su nestali
- Možda ih je uništila kronična bolest
- Ili možda loša podjela rada
- Cro-Magnonci su dijelili rad s obzirom na spol, Neadertalici nisu
- > Nove teorije favoriziraju ovu drugu ideju
- Stoga izgleda da Neandertalce nije istrijebila neka bakterija, ili neki diktator, već prije tipovi poput Vilme i Kremenka

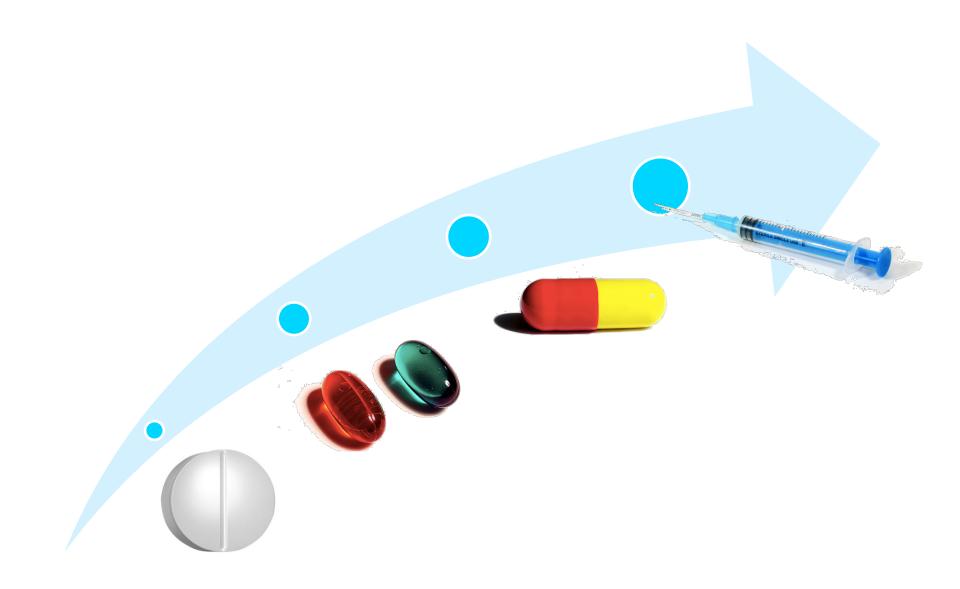




How does the placebo effect work?



How does the placebe effect work?



Are we alone in the Univers?

100 bilions

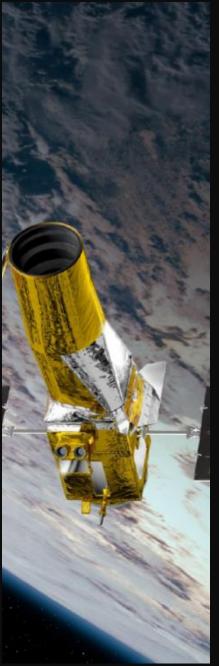
ALL THIS IS ONLY 5% OF THE UNIVERSE!

100 bilions





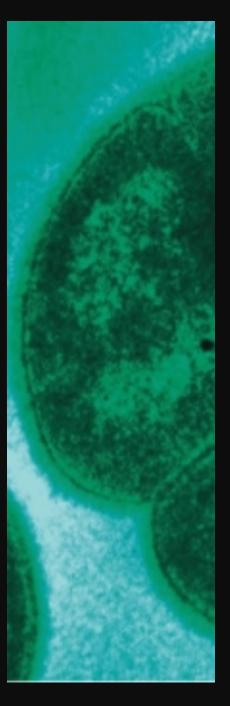














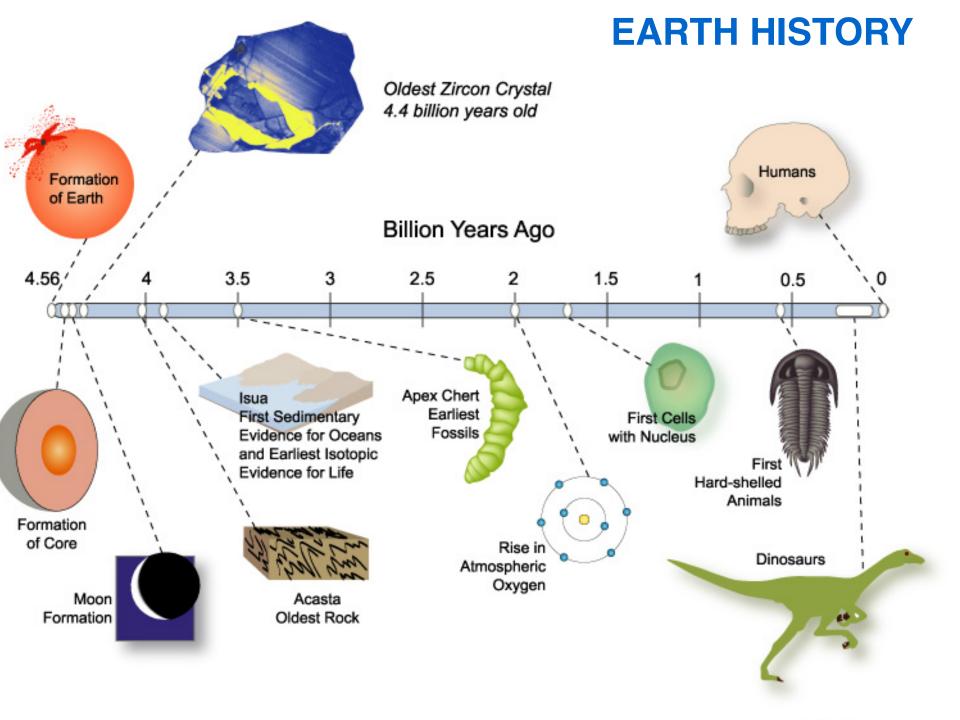
8 light minutes

7

2

1 light year = 9 460 730 472 580,8 km

PROXIMA CENTAURI 4,2 light years

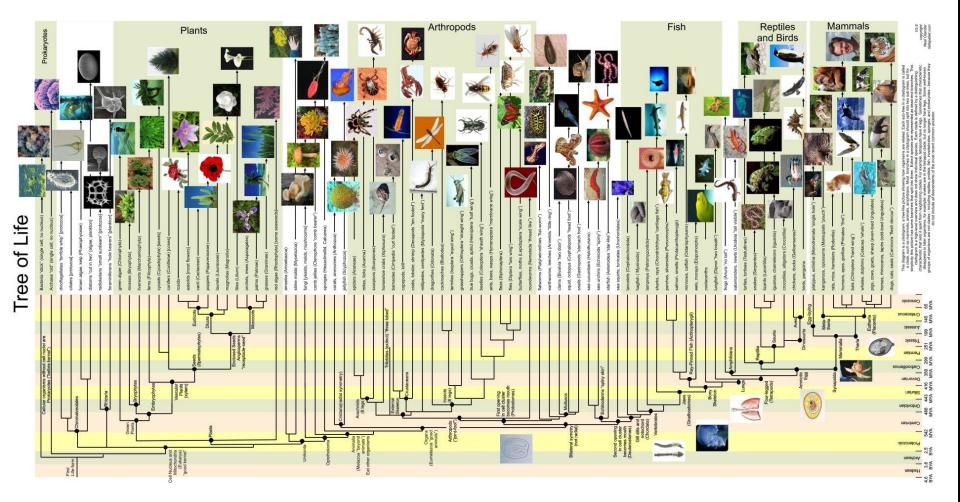


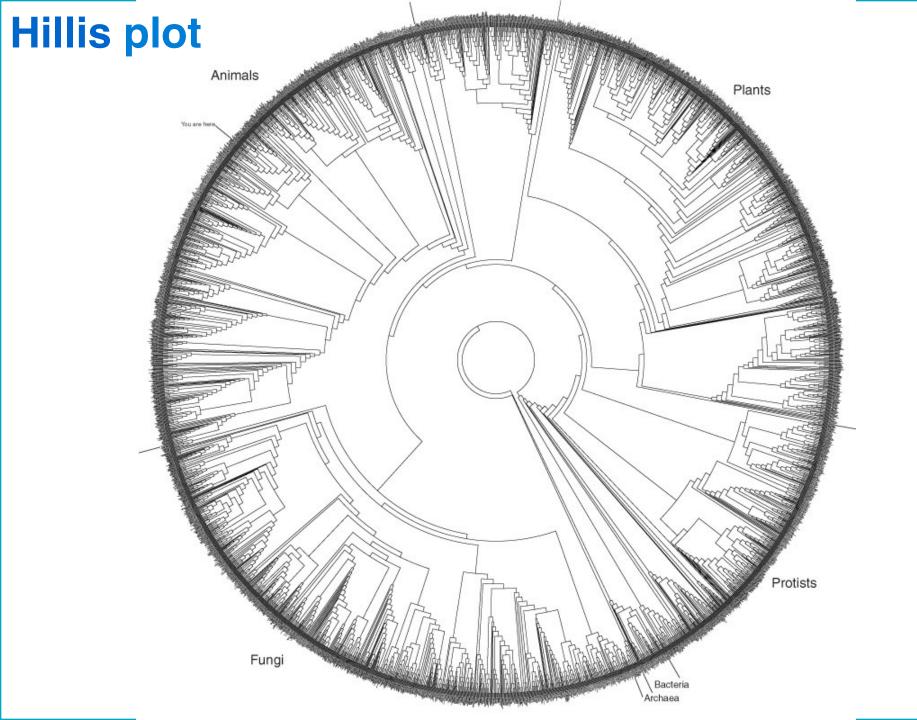


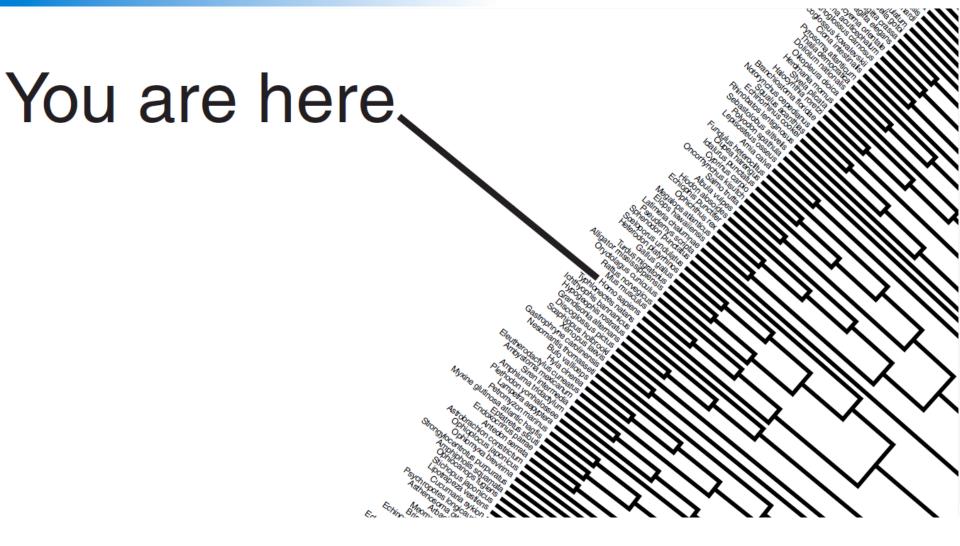








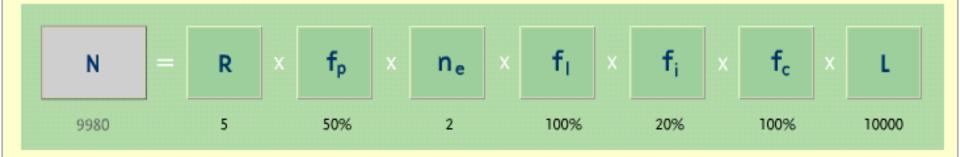




Drake's equation .

$$N = R^* \times f_p \times n_e \times f_l \times f_i \times f_c \times (1 + n_r) \times f_m \times L$$

N = number of civilisation in our galaxy with which we could communicate



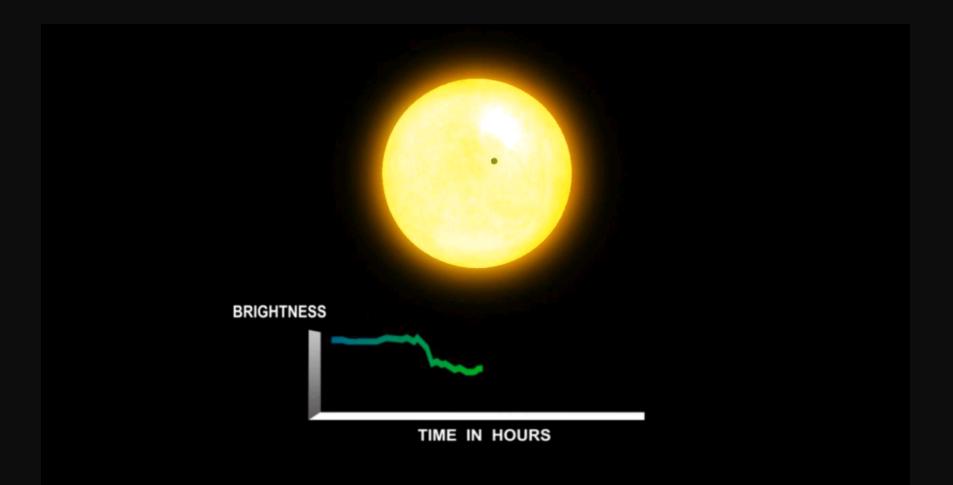
Ν

THE NUMBER OF COMMUNICATING CIVILIZATIONS IN OUR GALAXY

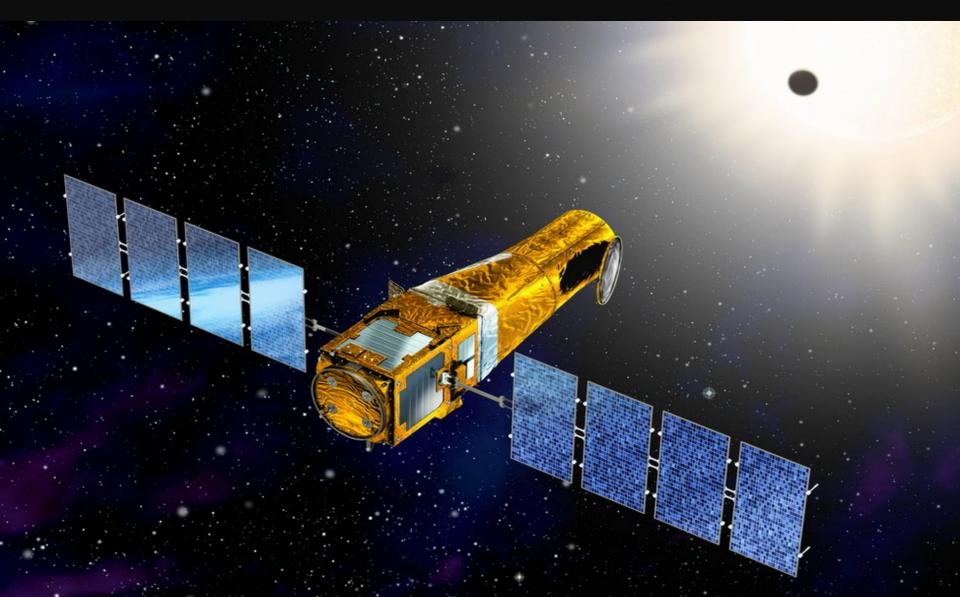


N is the number of communicating civilizations in the Milky Way today. Frank Drake's estimate of 10,000 is what gives hope to the SETI project, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. The search is limited to our galaxy, because while there may be intelligent life in other galaxies, we'd be unlikely to ever know of its existence because of the enormous distances. Since N is the product of all the terms multiplied together, if you make any variable zero, N automatically becomes zero as well. For terms that are percentages—if you think, for example, that only one in 10,000 planets would develop life—that fraction is equal to 0.01%.

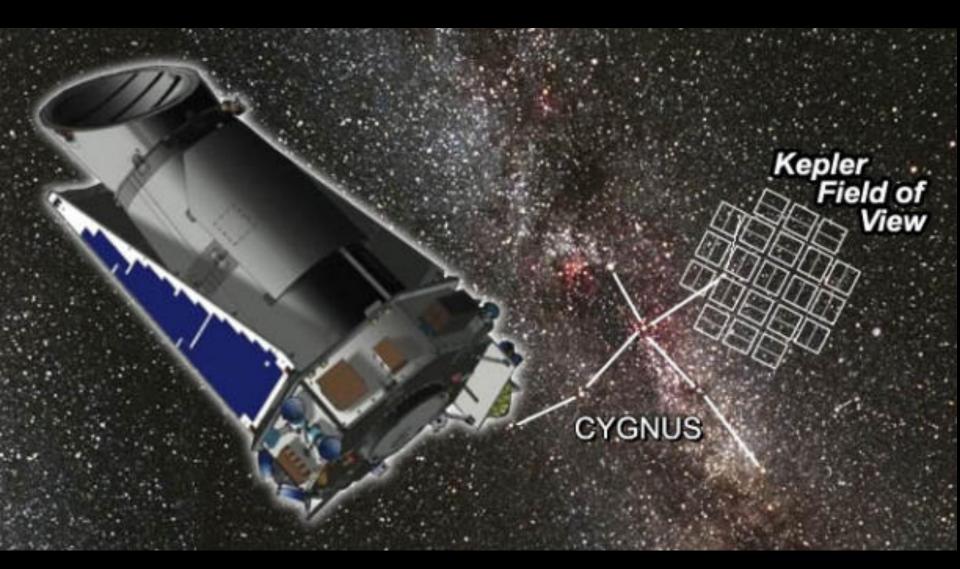
Planet transit - method



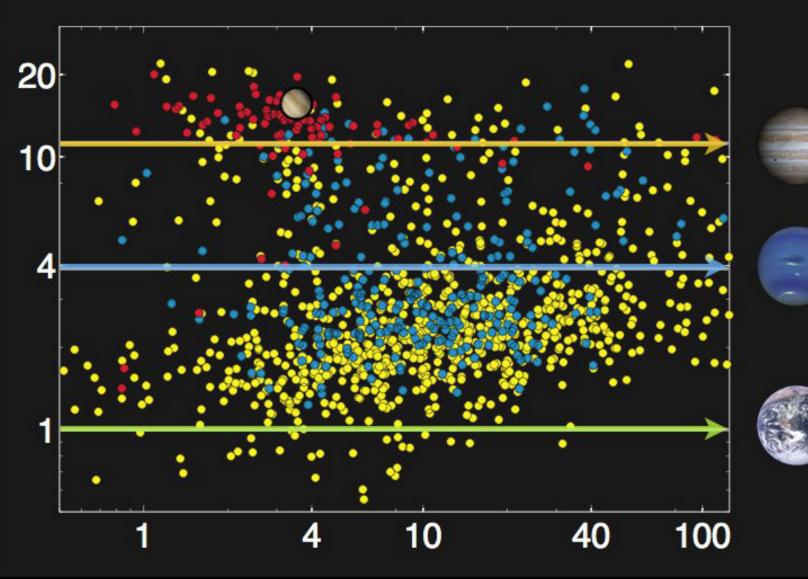
CoRoT – in space since 2007 Convection, Rotation and Planetary Transits



Kepler telescop – in orbit since 2009



R⊕ Radius Planet



Orbital Period [days]

Potential Habitable Worlds in the Universe



#01 KOI 736.01

#05

KOI 947.01

#09

KOI 701.03



#14

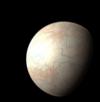
HD 85512 b



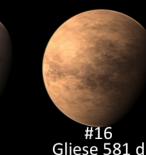
KOI 610.01



KOI 463.01



#12 KOI 854.01



#15

KOI 268.01

Scientists are starting to identify potential habitable exoplanets in over 2,000 exoplanets that have been detected so far. Here is the current working list of 16 potential habitable exoplanets candidates ranked by similarity to Earth, from best to worst. All are to scale and can be compared to Earth, Venus, Mars, and Mercury below.

Solar System Terrestrial Planets



Updated: Dec 5, 2011

#13

KOI 1026.01

CREDIT: The Habitable Exoplanets Catalog, Planetary Habitability Laboratory @ UPR Arecibo (phl.upr.edu)

Habitable Super-Earth?

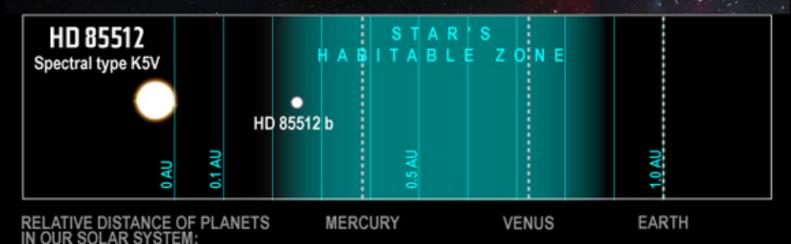
The planet HD 85512 b orbits within its star's habitable zone. Liquid water, a vital requirement for life as we know it, could exist on its surface.

Distance from Earth: 35 light-years

Mass: 3.6 times that of Earth

Surface temperature: 77 degrees F (25 degrees C)

ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF HD 85512 b (CREDIT: M. KORNMESSER, EUROPEAN SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY)



SOURCE: EUROPEAN SOUTHERN OBSERVATORY http://www.exoplanet.hanno-rein.de/

FERMI's PARADOX



Where is everybody?

And what if we discover that there is an inteligent life out there?

10



There Is No Gene For Race

EARTHLINGS

NARRATED BY JOAQUIN PHOENIX



NATURE

ANIMALS

HUMANKIND

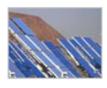
Sources

- Science Magazine: 125th Anniversary Issue – 125 Questions "What don't we know", <u>http://www.sciencemag.org/sciext/125th/</u>
- Wired Magazine: What we don't know, <u>http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/15.02/bigquestions.html</u>
- US National Academy of Engineering: Introduction to the Grand Challenges for Engineering, <u>http://www.engineeringchallenges.org/cms/8996/9221.aspx</u>









Make solar energy economical



Provide energy from fusion



Develop carbon sequestration methods



Manage the nitrogen cycle



Provide access to clean water



Restore and improve urban infrastructure



Advance health informatics



Engineer better medicines



Reverse-engineer the brain



Prevent nuclear terror



Secure cyberspace



Enhance virtual reality



Advance personalized learning



Engineer the tools of scientific discovery

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