

PANORAMA

Inorganic Live (!) in Outer Space¹

Computer simulations—not direct observations—conclude that the tiny electrically charged dust particles that pervade outer space can spontaneously self-organize into DNA-like double helixes. Such life-like activity occurs in a matrix of charged elementary particles called “plasma”—a thin, universe-wide soup of charged electrons, protons, etc.

The new computer simulations suggest that in the gravity environment of space, the plasma particles will bead together to form string-like filaments that then twist into corkscrew shapes. The helical strands resemble DNA and are themselves electrically charged and attracted to one another.

The computer-modeled particles can also divide to form two copies of the original structure and even “evolve” into more stable structures that are better able to survive in the plasma.

S. Shostak (SETI Institute) opined:

We’ve always assumed that life was a planetary phenomenon. Only on planets would you have the liquids of life. So you could have life in the hot gasses of a star or in the hot interstellar gas that suffuses the space between the stars, well, not only would that be “life” as we don’t know it” but it might be the most common type of life.

(Than, Ken; “Hot Gas in Space Mimics Life,”: *space.com*, August 14, 2007. Cr. H. H. Henry. Anonymous; “Dust-Up on Space Life,” *New York Post*, August 12, 2007. Cr. M. Piechota).

Comment. So, evolution and survival of the fittest occurs in outer space, too!

Thus ends the quote from *Science Frontiers*. Lest the reader think this is an argument for biological evolution, allow me, your editor, to remark that “inorganic life” means life *not* based on carbon atoms. Organic life is life as we commonly experience it; based on carbon.

¹ Entire article quoted from Corliss, Wm., 2007. *Science Frontiers*, no. 174, Nov.-Dec., p. 2. (POB 107, Glen Arm, MD 21057.)

In 1972, at the Association for the Advancement of Science's annual convention, a paper on neutron stars proposed that the neutron energy configurations could behave similarly to the proposal presented above and that life could "evolve" under the extremely hot and tremendously strong gravitational field of neutron stars. That paper was key to my considering the existence of a creator, which ultimately led me to embrace the Scripture's account of creation.

Is "Something" Fine-tuning the Universe for Life—Specifically Human Life?²

Fine-tuning the parameters of the universe is akin to the alignments mentioned above, being merely a more extreme example of non-randomness. The fine-tuning addressed here is enshrined in the so-called Anthropic Principle. Paul Davies, in a recent issue of *New Scientist*, provides a definition of the "strong" version of the Anthropic Principle:

...the laws of physics possess a weird and surprising property: collectively they give the universe the ability to generate life and conscious beings, such as ourselves, who can ponder the big questions. [!]

Scientists never tire of providing examples of bio-friendly coincidences and fortuitous fine-tuning that permit the evolution and continued existence of earth life.

A favorite example points out that if protons were just 0.1% heavier than neutrons, instead of vice versa, atoms could not exist and neither could life chemistry.

[A biologist might instead single out the astounding bit of fine-tuning seen in the astounding properties of genomes—but of course genome chemistry is intellectually subservient to physics. Should it be?]

Assuming the truth of the Anthropic Principle, P. Davies looked for an explanation—one not involving any religious entity. Reaching instead into the vast grab bag of quantum weirdness, he finds that time really has no meaning so that:

² This section is taken verbatim from a note by the same title which appeared in "Science Frontiers" no. 173, Sep-Oct 2007. POB 107, Glen Arm, MD 21057. www.science-frontiers.com. Corliss references cosmologist Paul Davies, 2007. "Laying Down the Laws," *New Scientist*, p. 30, June 30.

...the existence of life and observers today has an effect on the past.

Ergo, we are permitted what is called “quantum post-selection.” This permits J. Wheeler to claim that:

...the existence of life and observers in the universe today can help bring about the very circumstances needed for life to emerge.

In short, today’s life and its bio-friendly universe is the result of actions taken in the future by whatever humans turn out to be! Quantum weirdness allows this just as it permits the weirdness of entanglement. [Circular reasoning here?]

Comments. Those entities in the future now shaping our current evolution may not resemble us at all. And we must wonder, too, what is shaping these future entities—the life-shapers that exist deep in *their* future. But the past and future are not allowed in quantum mechanics.

Amazingly, the same scientists that think such thoughts trash Intelligent Design!

In responding to Davies’ article, one letter writer stated that he has looked up into the night sky and has concluded that the universe is actually optimized to produce vacuum, not humans!

Mammoths Peppered by Meteorites?³

Evidence has been found which shows mammoth and other great beasts from the last ice age were blasted with material that came from space. Eight tusks allegedly carbon-dated some 35,000 years ago (4,000 years ago, when the evolutionary age is corrected for the decay of the earth’s magnetic field) show signs of having being peppered with meteorite fragments. However, earlier research claimed a more recent meteor impact some 13,000 years ago, which is about 100 years different from the 4,000-year corrected date. These are probably the same event, and the team admits the possibility that the two are the same event.

The ancient remains come from Alaska, but researchers also have a Siberian bison skull with the same pockmarks. The scientists released details of the discovery at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco, US. They painted a picture of a calamitous

³ Based on Jonathan Amos, 11 Dec., 2007. “Great beasts peppered from space,” *BBC News*, San Francisco. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/science/nature/7130014.stm>.

event over North America that may have severely decreased the population of some species.

“We think that there was probably an impact which exploded in the air that sent these particles flying into the animals,” said Richard Firestone from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. “In the case of the bison, we know that it survived the impact because there’s new bone growth around these marks.”

Geoscience consultant Allen West added: “If the particles had gone through the skin, they may not have made it through to vital organs; but this material could certainly have blinded the animals and severely injured them.”

The mammoth and bison remains all display small (about 2-3mm in size) perforations. Raised, burnt surface rings trace the point of entry of high-velocity projectiles; the punctures are on only one side, consistent with a blast coming from a single direction. Viewed under an electron microscope, the embedded fragments appear to have exploded inside the tusk and bone, say the researchers. Shards have cut little channels. The sunken pieces are also magnetic, and tests show them to have high iron-nickel content, but to be depleted in titanium. The ratios of different types of atoms in the fragments meant it was most unlikely they had originated on Earth, the team told the AGU meeting.

The researchers also reported the discovery of sediment at more than twenty sites across North America that contained exotic materials: tiny spheres of glass and carbon, ultra-small specks of diamond and amounts of the rare element iridium that were too high to be terrestrial. In addition, they also found a black layer which, they argued, was the charcoal deposited by wildfires that swept the continent after the space object smashed into the Earth’s atmosphere. “We had found evidence of particle impacts in chert, or flint, at a Clovis Indian site in Michigan,” Dr Firestone said, “so, we got the idea that if these impacts were in the chert, then they might likely also have occurred in large surfaces such as tusks; and we decided it was worth a shot to go look for them.”

Allen West began the hunt at a mammoth tusk sale in his home state of Arizona. He immediately found one tusk with the telltale



pockmarks and asked the trading company if he could look through its entire collection. He sorted literally thousands of items.

“There are many things that can cause spots, such as algae, and there were a few of those; but I was only interested in the ones that were magnetic,” he recalled. “It was just a tiny magnet on a string, but very strong. It would swing over and stick firmly to these little dots.”

The intriguing question is how space impacts might fit into the extinction story of the ice age beasts. The mammoth, their elephant cousins the mastodon, sabre-toothed tigers, some bears, and many other creatures all disappeared rapidly from the palaeo-record about 10,000 years ago (70 years later in the magnetic field-corrected date; in short, these all happened about the same time). Their loss has traditionally been put down to both climate change and efficient hunting technologies adopted by migrating humans. The question thus arises, could the impact have affected the populations?

Particle Smasher: Could It Create a Time Tunnel?⁴

Switching on a giant atom-smashing machine might open the door to unexpected visitors - from the future, it has been claimed. The Large Hadron Collider (LHC), due to start this year, could turn out to be the world's first time machine, according to two Russian scientists.

Their calculations, they say, show it is possible that the LHC will tear a hole in the fabric of space and time, creating a gateway to tomorrow. And, with sufficiently advanced technology, people from the future might even be able to walk through it.

The vast LHC has been constructed at CERN, the European particle physics center near Geneva, Switzerland. The cyclotron is a tube, closed like a ring, some 16 miles or 27 kilometers in circumference. The cyclotron will accelerate charged particles to hitherto unprecedented energy. The cyclotron was constructed to reproduce, on a sub-microscopic scale, the conditions assumed in the early seconds of the Big Bang. To that end, the LHC will generate particles with so much energy that scientists are not entirely sure what will happen when they switch on the machine.

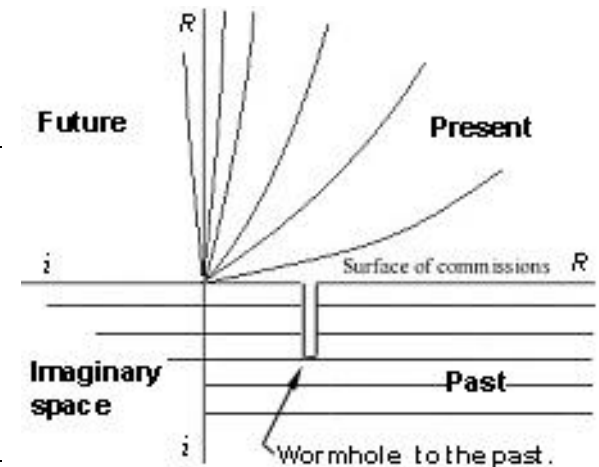
One possibility is that microscopic black holes will be created within the LHC. But Russian mathematicians Irina Arefieva and Igor Volovich point to another possible scenario; that the colliding particle beams might open up a “wormhole” capable of linking our time with another in the future. Such a time tunnel would need to be propped open for anyone to step through it. But this could happen if dark en-

⁴ http://ukpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5iFS_C6q_wUgO-DA2UYr19th6dprg. 7 February 2008, The Press Association article from “Russia Today.”

ergy—the mysterious anti-gravity force that causes galaxies to accelerate away from each other—possesses a special “phantom” property. If so, the two speculate, the year 2008 might then become “Year Zero” for future time travelers, since it would only be possible to travel back as far as the first doorway in time.

Manipulating such a wormhole to create a viable time machine would take incredibly advanced technology, *New Scientist* magazine reported—yet this cannot be ruled out in the distant future. With reference to Figure 2 of issue 122’s article on time sheets,⁵ what the two Russian mathematicians propose is that a hole may be punched into the next time sheet to fall, and that the hole may persist in subsequent time sheets. That way, a burrow is created which is filled with the “Present” space. Referring again to the aforementioned figure, the axis labeled “Surface of commissions” will be seen to dip into the time sheet pile of the past, ending on the sheet that had the first hole punched into it.

Figure 1: As each instant of time lands on the past, the wormhole is extended through the sheet, perpetuating the wormhole.



It Is Absolutely Safe to Say...

Creationists have long documented the fallacies of *evolvothink*, the way evolutionists reason. For instance, evolvothinkers point to natural selection as proof of evolution, and then point to evolution as proof of natural selection. Such logic uses “circular reasoning,” which is an abuse of logic. For an obvious example, suppose I were to claim that I am the world’s foremost discerner of human character. And suppose I then claim that I have the foremost character of all mankind.

⁵ Bouw, G. D., 2007. “Vistas in Time III: Time Sheets,” *B. A.*, 17(122):102.

How can I prove that? Well, the foremost discerner of human character declared me so to be. That is an example of circular reasoning.

Circular reasoning is a recourse of last resort for defenders of ideas that cannot be proven and, indeed, have effectively been disproved. Once the circular reasoning has been exposed, the next “argument” is name-calling; slander and vilification. The final step is violence. Thus creationists’ opponents have resorted to strong-arm tactics of denying degrees to qualified students whose only “flaw” is that they are creationists. (Creationists, in turn, use the same tactics against geocentrists.)

Richard Dawkins, trained as a zoologist, presently occupies the Charles Simonyi⁶ Chair in the Public Understanding of Science at the University of Oxford. He has earned the nickname of “Darwin’s rottweiler” for his emotionally-driven efforts to suppress all evidence against evolution. Nearly twenty years ago, in a book review, Dawkins wrote:

It is absolutely safe to say that, if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid, or insane (or wicked, but I’d rather not consider that).⁷

Of course it is absolutely safe to claim that since the anti-creationists are in control of the money, the media, the governments, and the colleges and universities. However, “absolutely safe” has nothing to do with truth. Such verbiage is designed to appeal to the pride of man; it is not the least bit reasonable. God calls such men “fools” in Psalms 14:1 and 53:1. Thus it is absolutely safe to say that, if you meet somebody who claims to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid, or insane (or wicked), that is, a fool fooled by the sleight of hand of science falsely so called (I Timothy 6:20).

The Passing of John Wheeler (1911-2008)

John Archibald Wheeler died in April of this year. Long-time readers will recall that Wheeler was a co-author, along with Kip Thorne and Charles W. Misner, of the book, *Gravitation* which has been a useful resource in the defense of geocentricity.

Early in his career, Wheeler worked with Niels Bohr, talked often with Einstein, and was Richard Feynman’s doctoral thesis advisor.

⁶ To appreciate the irony of the name applied to a “science” chair see Acts 8:9-24 from whence our word, simony.

⁷ Dawkins, R., 1989. “Book Review of Donald Johanson and Maitland Edey’s *Blueprint*. *The New York Times*, April 9, Section 7, p. 34.

Wheeler also worked on nuclear fission and the development of the atom bomb.

That done, Wheeler turned his attention to general relativity, pioneering the relativistic model of black holes. Indeed, Wheeler coined the name, black hole, in 1967.

In his later years Wheeler turned his mental powers to quantum physics, devising imaginative experiments that demonstrated that the universe is not a predictable machine, that is, that not everything is absolutely predestinated to happen just so. And so passes another deep thinker who had only started to perceive the significance of words but was slowed by the deception that men invent words and language, a deception that serves as a blindfold to truth.

Dark Energy and Geocentricity

If we look at the orbits of stars about their respective galactic centers and the motions of galaxies in clusters of galaxies, the amount of matter in the environment is higher than we perceive from “counting” stars by starlight. For a galaxy the gravitational mass is about ten times that obtained by counting stars; and for galaxy clusters it is at least a hundred times greater.

In recent decades the missing mass, as the phenomenon was once called, has been replaced by a host of causes for the missing mass. These include dark energy and dark matter. Dark energy is postulated to explain why the expansion rate of the universe is increasing (assuming that the expansion rate really is increasing) while dark matter is invoked to explain why the galaxies seem to rotate too fast for the mass when derived from counting stars or galaxies.

Of all the suggestions accounting for the missing mass, dark energy is the most mysterious. Its most mysterious aspect is that it is geocentric. It appears that the earth is centered in a billion-light-year-long bubble surrounded by a dense, massive shell of material whose gravity pulls the interior galaxies away from the earth at an increasing rate. This has been observed in supernovae, the most violent of exploding stars. But such a shell violates the Copernican principle, the assumption that every point in the universe must look as if it is in the center of the universe, that is to say, that it is impossible for the earth to be at the center of the universe even though there is much evidence that it is at the center.

The Copernican principle is widely accepted as a given, but it has never been proven. To that end, Robert Caldwell of Dartmouth College and Albert Stebbins of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory posited a test in the May 16 issue of *Physical Review Letters*. If earth is at

the center of the universe, they reason, then the spectrum of the microwave background radiation that reaches earth directly, without reflection, would appear as black body radiation, but another observer, away from the center, would not see a black body radiation curve.

Caldwell and Stebbins calculated that the two views mentioned above are not separate but tied together by electrons. Electrons scatter the background photons of the cosmic radiation. If we are located at the center of the universe the microwave background will contain tiny deviations from a perfect blackbody spectrum. The deviations are too small to currently be detectable, but a proposed satellite, the Absolute Spectrum Polarimeter could detect them. The satellite may be launched sometime in the next decade. In the meantime, it still appears that we live in a geocentric universe.

Apocalypse Imminent?⁸

The federal government has in the past recommended stocking the pantry in case an avian flu pandemic keeps people away from the grocery store. Now a top investment advisor notes that rice in the pantry may bring a higher investment yield than cash in a money-market account. Food prices rose 6% between 2005 and 2007, and the rate of increase is predicted to double. The best yield in a one-year certificate of deposit is now about 4.1% (pre-tax), and you're lucky to get 2.5% in the money market, while food inflation on average is 4.5%, according to recent government figures.

"I don't want to alarm anybody, but maybe it's time for Americans to start stockpiling food," writes Bret Ahrens (*Wall St. Jrnal* 4/21/08). "No, this is not a drill."

Some stores are limiting purchase of certain foods such as rice and cooking oils as some countries, faced with domestic shortages, are banning exports (*Wall St. Jrnal*. 5/1/08).

In the rest of the world, famine, the Apocalyptic horseman on the black horse in Revelation chapter 6, is being named with nearly a billion people at risk for hunger and malnutrition. Since 2002, food prices have risen 65% worldwide, and dairy 80% (*WorldNetDaily* 4/1/08). Rice stockpiles have reached a 26-year low, and its price has doubled in the last year (*Bloomberg News* 4/3/08). Grain stockpiles are at the lowest level since records were first kept. Wheat hit \$24 a bushel, up from \$3 four years ago (Martin Walker, UPI 2/27/08). The World Bank Group estimates that 33 nations face potential social unrest because of acute increases in food and fuel prices.

⁸ May 2008. "Apocalypse Imminent?" *Doctors for Disaster Preparedness Newsletter*, 25(3):1-2.

Many contributing reasons are cited: a rodent plague in India, cold weather, bans on genetically modified crops, increased fuel prices. Then there are massive government subsidies and mandates to feed food to cars as ethanol, called “one of the biggest blunders in history” (*San Francisco Chronicle* 4/2/08). The EU Commission rejected claims that producing biofuels is a “crime against humanity” (*EU Business* 4/14/08).

The record 30 million acres the U.S. will devote to ethanol production this year will consume almost a third of America’s corn crop, while yielding fuel amounting to less than 3% of petroleum consumption. Yet the Congressional Research Service warned in December that even devoting every last ear of American corn to ethanol production would not be sufficient to meet federal mandates. John McCain and 24 other senators are urging EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson to use his waiver authority to eliminate looming mandates (*Wall St Jnl* 5/7/08). The EU, however, has vowed to stick to its target for biofuels.

“You can’t change a political objective without risking a debate on all the other objectives,” which could result in disintegration of the landmark EU climate change and energy package, the EU official said (*EU Business* 4/14/08).

Until a way is found to extract energy from useless cornstalks and fallen trees, biofuels, like all other “green” energy sources, devour vast expanses of land.

In a classic 2007 paper, Jesse Ausubel, director of the program for human environment at Rockefeller University and one of the main organizers of the first UN World Climate conference in 1979, calculated the amount of energy generated by renewable sources in terms of power output per square meter of land disturbed. To grow the wood required to fuel a standard 1,000-megawatt electrical plant would take a forest covering 1,000 square miles. Replacing our 600 coal-fired plants would take a forest the size of Alaska. The reservoir behind Glen Canyon Dam, which generates 1,000 megawatts, covers 250 sq. mi. A wind farm generating that much electricity takes 75 sq. mi. Meeting U.S. electrical needs with solar by 2050 would require 34,000 sq. mi, or about one-quarter of New Mexico (*Wall St. Jnl* 5/2/08). Biomass from 2,500 sq. km. of prime Iowa farmland would be needed to replace one nuclear generating station.

“Let’s stop sanctifying minor and false gods and heretically chant, “Renewables are not Green,” Ausubel suggests; renewables wreck the environment. Ausubel is a promoter of nuclear energy (*Environment & Climate News* October 2007).