

While there is, as yet, no evidence for other universes, their existence is more plausible than the existence of a god. After all, we know it's possible for universes to exist – we live in one. We have no evidence that it is possible for gods to exist.

A Fine-Tuned God?

Those who believe a “fine-tuned” Universe proves the existence of a god admit that there is some slight margin for variance in these physics constants of the Universe. But what about the god they believe exists? Could that god be anything other than *exactly* what it is? If not, then there is *zero* margin for variance for that god. So, as improbable as the existence of life in the Universe may seem, the existence of a god would be even more improbable. It also begs the question: Who or what fine-tuned this god?

Conclusion

The track record of naturalistic science for answering questions about the natural world far exceeds the track record of supernatural “revelation.” The existence of a god seems more improbable than life arising naturally on its own in the Universe. “God” has not provided us with any answers and has instead raised more questions.

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A “Fine-Tuned” Universe as Proof of a God?

By August Berkshire

There are many people who believe that if one or more physics constants of the Universe had varied only slightly, they would have produced a universe incapable of supporting life. For example, if the gravitational constant had been slightly greater, the Universe would have collapsed back in upon itself before any life had a chance to form.

Some religious people look at this supposedly “fine-tuned” Universe and claim it is proof that a god exists who did the fine-tuning. Let us examine this claim.

God-of-the-Gaps

At heart, this is a god-of-the-gaps argument. It says that if we can't think of a probable *natural* way that conditions could have resulted in life in the Universe, then a *supernatural* “god” did it. However, we don't know what this god is, nor how it accomplishes anything. Therefore, “god” is not a meaningful answer because it provides us with no information.

Religious people claim that we aren't entitled to a “free lunch” regarding a natural explanation for life in the Universe. But “god” is the ultimate unexplained “free lunch.”

The Universe

Most of the Universe is decidedly *inhospitable* to life. Outer space is deadly to anything other than, perhaps, microbes – and the majority of planets, moons, and asteroids aren't much better.

Judging by what we observe now, the Universe will continue expanding forever, creating a “big chill” effect. Heat energy will be so dissipated that no life will be possible. A person alive just before this happens won't view things as so “miraculously fine-tuned” as some religious people do today.

Our Sun

While natural conditions are favorable for life on Earth now, this won't be true in about five billion years. At that point the Sun's supply of hydrogen will run out and the Sun will expand and engulf the Earth, wiping out all life. Even a billion years from now, all water will have boiled off the Earth, making life improbable, if not impossible. Again, a person alive just before either of these events occurs won't view things as so “miraculously fine-tuned” as some religious people do today.

The Earth

Apart from the Universe, some people claim the Earth itself is so fine-tuned for life (the proper distance from the Sun, the right kind of elements, etc.) that only a god could have established it. This, of course, is the same god-of-the-gaps

argument that we encountered with the “fine-tuned” Universe.

But instead of asking about the odds of life *as we know it* arising through natural processes on *this particular planet (Earth)*, we should instead ask about the odds of life *of any kind* arising naturally on *any planet*. It is estimated that there are 100 billion galaxies in the Universe (containing trillions of planets). If only *one planet per galaxy* had the right conditions to produce *some kind of life*, that would still amount to 100 billion planets and at least 100 billion different species.

Limited Knowledge

The fine-tuned Universe argument for a god assumes that what we know about the Universe today is accurate. But this is cutting edge physics and what we believe to be true today is far from certain. Even now there is dispute among physicists as to how much these constants of the Universe can vary and still produce a universe capable of leading to life.

Multiple Universes

Extraordinary odds against life in *one* universe become a near certainty if there are *many* universes. If many universes exist (sometimes called a “multiverse”) and each universe has its own random set of constants, then life will almost certainly arise in at least one of these universes. (For example, roll a set of dice long enough and you will eventually get two sixes.)