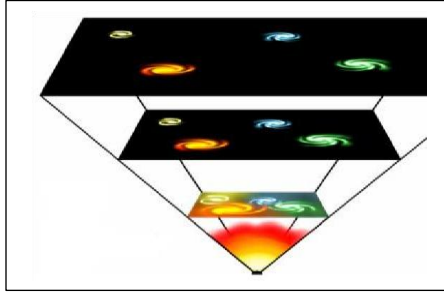


Debunking Atkin's¹ Atheistic Challenge

The Scientific Impossibility of our Universe Creating Itself

In both of Dr. Peter Atkins' separate public debates with Drs. William Craig² and Hugh Ross,³ the atheist admitted that he **cannot** "prove" God does not exist. Instead he claimed that conceptions of a "god" of any kind **are entirely unnecessary** to account for the existence of the cosmos.³ Nevertheless, by that claim Atkins instead exposed his liability to falsification by means of the very same intellectual grounds that he claims to champion in his relentless attempts to disparage "religion."

Empirical evidence (which by definition refers to *physical* factors that are measurable, testable, perceptible, and universally-duplicatable), convincingly-indicate that the physical cosmos began to exist **out of a "zero...volume beginning."**⁶ Physicist, Paul Davies writes, "If we extrapolate [backwards into the past in regard to the currently-expanding cosmos] we reach a point when all distances in the universe have **shrunk to zero**...For this reason cosmologists think of the initial singularity as the beginning of the universe."⁴ Furthermore he writes, "On this view the big bang (BB) represents the creation event...not only of all matter and energy in the universe, but also of space-time itself."⁵ Indeed, this view is even affirmed by physicists who reject belief in the God of Genesis. Moreover, the BB undermines Atkin's philosophy by *manifesting* itself as an unassailable miracle!



This body of facts in and of itself renders the notion of an atheistically-caused beginning of the universe to be **utterly impossible**. The grounds for this stricture are framed solely by *scientific* insights that are wholly distinct from religious dogma. For example, *scientific* events entail (1) **physical** entities that interact in processes with other objects (2) by **forces** that propel (or impel) them (3) within **spatial** regions (volume) (4) over a **duration** of time. Yet all four of these factors were utterly **absent** prior to the zero-volume beginning that marked the creation of the cosmos.⁶ In light of this complete **absence** of matter and energy and space and time at that beginning moment, there was absolutely no conceivable *physical* aspect of existence to draw on through which any *scientific* event could possibly have occurred.⁷

Although this paper begins by highlighting the **impossibility** of a *materialistic* beginning of existence, I now make a **positive case** for the BB creation of our cosmos by the God of Genesis 1:1. Numerous observations that follow from Einstein's General Theory of Relativity⁸ indicate that, like shot fired out of a shotgun, 1) virtually all galaxies are spreading apart from each other, 2) that expansion initially began to slow down, 3) the cosmic temperature is cooling off, and 4) the prediction that the BB would leave behind a certain form of "background radiation" is now corroborated, just as was expected.⁹

¹ <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/unbelievable/2020/11/when-atheism-becomes-unfalsifiable-peter-atkins-and-the-problem-of-evidence/>

² William Lane Craig vs. Peter Atkins: "Does God Exist?" U. Manchester, 09-2011 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ssq-S5M8wsY&t=5643s>).

** Hugh Ross v. Peter Atkins. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVCVt-dvVOc> (8:37).

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ssq-S5M8wsY&t=696s> (27:13f).

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Bang.

⁵ Stephen C. Meyer. *Return of the God Hypothesis*. (Harper One, 2021), p. 116. Also S.C. Meyer video, <https://evolutionnews.org/2023/07/10/erogan-stephen-meyer-did-images-from-webb-space-telescope-refute-the-big-bang/> (7:14f).

⁶ Op.cit. (5).

⁷ Alastair Wilson, Prof. of Philosophy, U. of Birmingham, 1/3/2022. theconversation.com/how-could-the-big-bang-arise-from-nothing-171896

⁸ Hugh Ross writes, "The reliability of general relativity...is beyond doubt [since it] predicts movements between massive bodies to better than a tenth of a trillionth of a percent precision." *The Creator and the Cosmos*, 4th ed. (RTB, 2018), p. 52.

⁹ Notice both the image above on p. 1 and also my booklet, "God's Prints are Everywhere" at www.christianityontheoffense.com/articles

While certain noted scientists would **dispute my view**, in **rebuttal** I point out the distinction between hypothetical conjectures that tend to **ignore facts**, as opposed to tying one's conclusions to **measurable** and **documentable** data instead. One common **ploy** for **evading** inferences **that logically follow from BB cosmology** is to chase after the "skirts" of the **multiverse (MV)** theory. Yet that tactic yields absolutely **no testable data** by which any MV schema could conceivably be validated.¹⁰ Atkins by **contrast** outright denies the existence of matter by suggesting positive and negative particles **nullified each other** in the past, thereby **leaving nothing behind**. But by his suggestion that the act of *neutralizing* such charges renders them completely out of existence, he thereby commits the "**categorical error**" **logical fallacy**.¹¹

A further strategy for staving off the theistic (God-affirming) implications entails the concession that **no** a solution is yet identified even while they defer to assurances that *scientific* answers are "just around the corner!" Yet that ploy presents three intellectual problems. Firstly it concedes that their "solution" **really is not in place**. Secondly their "assurance" amounts to no more than the *wishful* god-of-the-gaps ploy they decry from young-earth-creationists who likewise fail to name the *objective* scientific data required to validate their views. Thirdly, skeptics have yet to even suggest a **potential pathway** as to *how* anything can arise from out of absolute nothingness.¹²

Additionally, in regard to the habitual refusal of *materialists*¹³ to so much as consider the concept of a *personal* creator as the causal agent of the universe, I reply that no conceivable body of *scientific* evidence exists to which materialists *can* appeal, which **prohibits** the notion of a spiritual realm that is overseen by a personal God who intentionally brought all things into existence at creation (Genesis 1:1). Indeed, at bottom **only the Bible offers a remotely-sufficient causal Agent** of creation since God presents Himself as everlasting from all eternity, all-powerful, entirely knowledgeable, and utterly transcendent (separate) in essence, from the entire expanse of His created order.¹⁴

Finally, readers may call it naïve haughtiness that a pastor such as myself should dare to goad a renowned Ph.D. chemist such as Dr. Atkins over a *scientific* contention. My reply is that *decisive* criteria for refereeing a *scientific* dispute consists not of parading one's academic degrees, but rather presenting the quality, relevance, and adequacy of the data brought to the table. In contrast to Dr. Atkins' huffing and puffing, I am presenting evidence that refutes his contention by identifying the initial conditions at the moment of the BB which excludes the very possibility of a scientifically-caused creation event. Further still, the evidence presented here, coupled with those strictures that distinguish science from non-science, can be mastered by **any truth seeker**, whether they be a scientifically-trained professional or not!

Rev. Gary W. Jensen (NALC Lutheran) © revised July 28, 2024

M.Div. Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN ** M.A. with Honors in *Science and Religion*, BIOLA University in La Mirada, CA
Gjensen549@gmail.com ** www.christianityontheoffense.com ** offensivechristianity.blogspot.com

¹⁰ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/does-the-multiverse-really-exist/> "All parallel universes lie outside our horizon and remain beyond our capacity to see, now or ever, no matter how technology evolves...[so that] none of these claims...can be directly substantiated."

¹¹ Op.cit. (1), 50:30f., 1:00f.

¹² Despite their denial that God is eternal, they nevertheless postulate (contrary to factual data), the existence of perhaps billions of other universes which are constantly creating new ones. For a rebuttal of such speculation see both Hugh Ross. Op.cit. (8), pp. 85-108, ** and the rebuttal of Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinov's book, *The Grand Design*, in John Lennox. *God and Stephen Hawking*, (Lion, 2011).

¹³ Materialism in is the view that the **only** entities that exist are *physical* in composition. It absolutely denies spiritual existence and hence allows no god(s). Peter Adkins is himself a self-identified materialist. <https://iai.tv/articles/a-universe-of-nothingness-aid-1557>

¹⁴ Roy Abraham Varghese states, "Take your pick: God or universe. Something always existed," in his article, "The New Atheism." Antony Flew. *There is a God: How the World's Most Important Atheist Changed His Mind*. (Harper One, 2007), p.165.