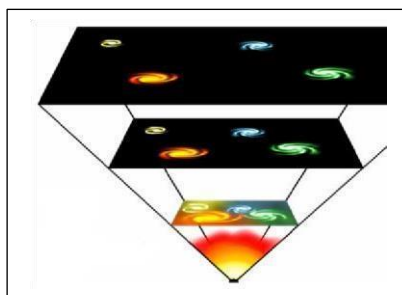


The Scientific Impossibility of a Universe Creating Itself

The Failure of Dr. Peter Atkins to Back Up His Claim that "God Isn't Necessary"

In Dr. Peter Atkins' separate debates with Drs. William Lane Craig and Hugh Ross,¹ he conceded that he cannot actually "prove" the **non**-existence of God.² Instead he proclaimed that no god of any conception is *needed* to account for the existence of the cosmos. Yet in so doing, Atkins, the *self*-acclaimed *guardian* of *scientism*³ ineptly exposed his own vulnerability to refutation by means of the very same intellectual foundation that he claims to champion in his relentless disparagement of "religion."⁴



Empirical evidence, which by definition pertains to data that is perceivable, measurable, testable, and reviewable, convincingly indicates that the physical cosmos came into existence out of a "**zero... volume beginning.**" Renowned physicist Dr. Paul Davies writes, "*If we extrapolate [backwards into the past in regard to the ongoing expanding of the cosmos] we reach a point when all distances...have shrunk to zero...For this reason cosmologists think of the initial singularity as the beginning of the universe.*"

Furthermore he says, "*On this view the Big Bang (BB) represents the creation event...not only of all matter and energy in the universe, but also space and time itself.*"⁵ Indeed, other leading physicists have further tightened the certitude of the beginning of the universe out of nothing.⁶ Even *conjectures* that prior to the BB, other "powers" caused it, lack valid *rational* backing since, prior to the BB **no data at all** is accessible to anyone.⁷

This body of facts in and of itself renders the notion of an *atheistically-caused* beginning of the universe to be **conceptually impossible**. The grounds for this stricture is framed solely by *scientific* limitations that are distinct from religious dogma. For example, in order for given events to qualify as *scientific* they must necessarily entail (1) **physical** entities that interact with each other (2) by **forces** that propel (or impel) them (3) within **spatial** regions (4) over a **duration** of time. All of these factors were **nonexistent** prior to the zero-volume beginning that kicked off the creation of the cosmos. In light of this privation of the four factors prior to that beginning instant, there was simply **no** conceptual aspect of existence to draw on through which any *scientific* event could conceivably have occurred. Consequently, the causer of the events that followed after the BB moment must have had a *super-natural* existence.

Yet having begun this paper with a focus on the **impossibility** of a *materialist* account for existence, I will now lay out a **positive case** for the BB creation of the cosmos. Even though numerous advanced-degree

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ssg-S5M8wsY&t=5643s> ** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVCVt-dvVOc>

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVCVt-dvVOc> (8:37).

³ *Scientism* is a close variation of materialism, both of which hold that only material realities that are verifiable by science qualify as real. See my paper, "Scientism is Not Science," at my website: www.christianityontheoffense.com/articles

⁴ <https://superscholar.org/features/influential-atheists/>

⁵ Quoted in Stephen Meyer. *Return of the God Hypothesis*. (Harper One, 2021), p. 116f.

⁶ "The Borde/Guth/ Vilenkin Theorem says, "If the universe is, on average expanding, then its history cannot be indefinitely continued into the past." Alexander Vilenkin. "The Beginning of the Universe." <https://inference-review.com/article/the-beginning-of-the-universe> ** also, <https://physics.stackexchange.com/questions/308325/correct-interpretation-of-the-borde-guth-vilenkin-bgv-theorem#312948>

⁷ <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.**"

scientists **oppose** this very position, I eagerly rebut their disapproval by first of all highlighting **the vital distinction between scientific** evidence (that which is detectable by our senses) on the one hand, and, on the other hand, *hypothetical* conjectures which, by definition, cannot be validated since no data is available to establish them as actually so (above par.). For example, one common ploy that seeks to evade the BB appeals to the “**multiverse**” (MV) theory which **utterly lacks empirical data by which a MV** schema *could* through *scientific* means be substantiated--if it was true. But by that failure it is instead **disqualified**.⁸

My “*positive*” case on the other hand, appeals to a body of evidence which fulfills the qualifications that the concept “*scientific*” specifies. I invite you to avail yourself of a summation of my main points that follow, in my booklet, “God’s Prints are Everywhere,” which is posted on my website.⁹ Also I urge you to survey the colored illustration on p. 1 of this paper by firstly noting that the bottom point represents the “zero-volume”-creation 13.7 billion years ago, while the top, spread-out-portion, represents the present time. In addition I lastly ask you to imagine an inflated round rubber **balloon** with galaxies (like the picture) covering it by a felt pen. Now pretend you are blowing it up with puffs of air from your mouth. This last process is **accurate** to reality, in the single sense that the expanding balloon represents what causes the galaxies to spread apart from each other. On the other hand, inflating it by *our* breath is **not accurate** to reality in the sense that the starting-point of the cosmos lies at the exact center **inside** of the balloon. The reason is that every *created* object (galaxies, planets, mountains, oceans, animals, people, etc.) lies on the inside wall of the balloon, where it is moving away from the “zero-volume” center beginning point where God called it into existence: “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*” (Genesis 1:1).

My positive case entails **1)** the observable fact of virtually **all** galaxy groups flying apart from each other including from us. This is demonstrable proof that the cosmos has been expanding ever since it began. **2)** The spreading apart of all the galaxies following from the initial BB blast has also been calculated to steadily slow down (somewhat like a July 4th-firework races like a rocket up into the sky where it bursts open into a flower that then descends slowly back to the ground). **3)** The initially extremely-hot BB beginning has ever since then been cooling down too. **4)** The radiation remaining from that initial blast, called “cosmic background radiation” (illustration bottom) has also recently been detected, just as scientists predicted. It was this discovery that debunked the two rival hypotheses (“oscillating universe” and “steady-state theory”) and thereby elevated the BB as the reigning standard model of the cosmos.¹⁰

The very nature of this evidence is secure from overthrow for the reason that it is both objectively perceptible and accessible to the entire scientific community. Every point of light that telescopes detect left the surface of a galaxy and traveled across the heavens to appear as the same image on its receptor on earth. In other words, every image we see reflects how each galaxy appeared when it left its source. For this reason, every point of light we detect entails looking back into the past. Consequently, we can observe our cosmic history. Since this time-laden “structure” aims inescapably into the past it highlights that our cosmic beginning had its source beyond the boundary of science where only God alone can know!

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⁸ Op.cit. (7).

⁹ www.christianityontheoffense.com/

¹⁰ Hugh. Ross. The Creator and the Cosmos, fourth edition. (RTB, 2018), ch. 9.