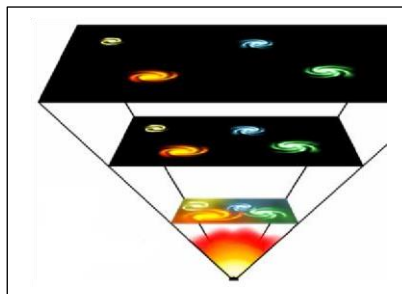


## The Scientific Impossibility of our Universe Creating Itself

Atheist<sup>1</sup> Peter Atkins' Futile Denial of the "Necessity" of God

In his separate public debates with Dr. William Lane Craig<sup>2</sup> and Dr. Hugh Ross,<sup>2</sup> Dr. Peter Atkins conceded that he cannot actually "prove" the **non**-existence of god. Instead he declared the thrust of his argumentation to be that any conception of "**god**" is **wholly unnecessary** to account for the existence of the cosmos.<sup>3</sup> Yet in so doing, Atkins exposed his own vulnerability to refutation by means of the very same intellectual grounds that he claims to champion in his relentless disparaging of "religion."

*Empirical* evidence, which by definition pertains to *concrete* factors that are perceptible,



measurable, testable, and ubiquitously-duplicatable, convincingly indicates that the physical universe came into existence **out of a "zero...volume beginning."**<sup>6</sup> 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."<sup>4</sup> Furthermore Davies 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."<sup>5</sup> Indeed, this view is affirmed by leading physicists,<sup>6</sup> some of whom aren't sympathetic to belief in the God of Genesis 1:1.

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* demands that are utterly 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.<sup>7</sup> In light of this complete **absence** of matter and energy and space and time at that beginning moment, there was absolutely no conceivable aspect of existence to draw on through which any *scientific* event could possibly have occurred.

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 Relativity<sup>8</sup> indicate that, like the shot fired out of a shotgun, 1) virtually all galaxies as they advance are spreading apart from each other, 2) the expansion slowed down,<sup>9</sup> 3) the cosmic temperature is cooling off, 4) The prediction that the BB will leave behind a certain form of "background radiation" is now confirmed just as was expected.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/unbelievable/2020/11/when-atheism-becomes-unfalsifiable-peter-atkins-and-the-problem-of-evidence/> \*\* William Lane Craig vs. Peter Atkins: "Does God Exist?" U. Manchester, 09-2011 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ssg-S5M8wsY&t=5643s>).

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

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

<sup>4</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big\\_Bang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Bang).

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

<sup>6</sup> This term is the scientific equivalent of absolute nothingness.

<sup>7</sup> Op.cit. (5).

<sup>8</sup> 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*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., (RTB, 2018), p. 52.

<sup>9</sup> Although the expansion of the early cosmos slowed down, scientists now seek to explain, astonishingly, why it is now accelerating! Ibid, p. 46.

<sup>10</sup> Notice both the image above on p. 1 and also my booklet, "God's Prints are Everywhere" at [www.christianityontheoffense.com/articles](http://www.christianityontheoffense.com/articles)

Although numerous advanced-degreed scientists **oppose** the point of this paper, I highlight, in rebuttal, the vital distinction between solely to hypothetical conjectures that effectively **evade empirical data** on the one hand, as opposed to drawing conclusions from evidence that is detectable, measurable, and documentable on the other. One common ploy for seeking to evade the implications of the BB is to appeal to the *multiverse* theory. Yet that tactic yields **absolutely no empirical data by which a multi-verse** schema could conceivably be validated through actual *scientific* data.<sup>11</sup>

A further strategy for staving off the theistic implications highlighted in my third paragraph entail the concession that a solution is not yet identified even while they persist in assuring audiences that a *scientific* answer is "just around the corner!" Yet that ploy presents three intellectual problems. Firstly it acknowledges that their "solution" **is in reality not in place**. So their "assurance" is actually a form of *wishful* thinking that commits the same "god-of-the-gaps" ploy they decry about young-earth-creation-ists who fail to identify the specific *objective* scientific data necessary to validate their views. Thirdly, they have yet to pose even a **potential pathway** as to *how* something can from absolute nothingness.<sup>12</sup>

Additionally, in regard to the habitual refusal of *materialists*<sup>13</sup> to so much as consider the concept of a *personal* creator as the cause of the universe, there is, I reply, no conceivable body of *scientific* evidence (p.1, par.2) to which materialists can appeal, which **prohibits** such a notion as a spiritual realm that is overseen by a personal, omniscient and omnipotent God who intentionally brought all things into existence at creation (Genesis 1:1). Indeed, at bottom only the Bible offers a rational cause for existence by presenting the only truly sufficient cause of any universe; namely, that Being who, by His very essence is eternally self-existent, even as He also transcends the entire expanses of His created order.<sup>14</sup>

Finally, readers may judge it an absurdity 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 a listing of one's academic degrees, but instead affirming the quality, relevance, and sufficiency of the data that is brought to the table. In rebuttal to Dr. Atkins' huffing and puffing, I have presented evidence that refutes his contention by naming the initial conditions at the moment of the BB which excludes the very possibility of a scientifically-caused creation event. Indeed, the evidence presented here, coupled with the strictures that distinguish science from non-science, can be grasped by **any truth seeker**, whether or not they be a professional scientist!

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<sup>11</sup> <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**" (boldface mine).

<sup>12</sup> Out of their presumption that the God the Bible cannot possibly be eternal, their ploy is instead to postulate that, contrary to factual data, consists of perhaps billions of other universes that are constantly creating new ones. In rebuttal see 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).

<sup>13</sup> Materialism in the philosophical sense is the conviction that the only entities that are real (or actual) are physical in makeup. There is no spiritual reality and hence no god(s). Peter Adkins is a self-identified materialist. <https://iai.tv/articles/a-universe-of-nothingness-aid-1557>

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