

The title of this thread is: **Rational Reasons for the Existence of God.**

Rational - As discussed previously, anything beyond space and time is inherently irrational. So any reasons for believing in a transcendent deity will necessarily go beyond the bounds of ordinary human logic and materialistic science. However, meta-physical mathematics has shown us that irrational concepts may nevertheless denote something undeniably connected to ordinary reality, hence they may be ironically Reasonable. Besides, the "ratio" in rationality refers to conceptual relationships between things, whether real or imaginary.

Reasons - Reasoning means inferring causes from effects, and effects from causes. But Reasonable is not the same thing as purely logical. Mathematicians have also found that we can deal with irrational numbers and concepts if we use Fuzzy Logic. FL can work with vague probabilities and irrational ratios (π) and non-integral proportions and a-causal statistics that would crash a system based on rigid, integral logic. Hence, my personal reasons may sometimes sound fuzzy and irrational like my reasons for choosing vanilla over strawberry. But my reasons are always reasonable, to me. The problem arises when I try to convince you to share my taste in truth. Even reasoning from the same axioms, our fuzzy-logical conclusions may differ.

Existence - So let's begin by simply asking for reasons for Existence, period. Why does anything exist? Stretmediq argued in another thread that nothingness is an irrational, paradoxical, meaningless concept. So ordinary logic requires that something must always exist. And yet, we use the non-number Zero in our calculations without hesitation. But that's only because we have found that the concept of an Empty Set is useful in dealing with a complex, and sometimes paradoxical reality. Likewise, we have found the illogical, brain-straining concept of Infinity to have practical applications in thinking about finite reality. In effect, Zero and Infinity serve as brackets bounding the range of human logic; ordinary existence is greater than zero and less than infinity. But the extraordinary human mind cannot be restrained by those event horizons of logic. In imagination it can go beyond infinity, or to a negative realm less than zero. Logically, it seems that the cause and reason for the existence of the universe must exist prior-to and other-than the thing caused; hence beyond the reach of reason and science. But not out of reach for unrestrained imagination. So we can still ask the irrational question, "who or what caused the existence of the known world?"

God - Let's just say for the sake of simplicity that "God" is a common "reason" given for the existence of the world. Certain assumptions go along with that role. A "reason" is assumed to be the cause of some observation. The existence of the physical world is the thing we observe. And the cause of that existence is the reason we are seeking. But since the cause lies beyond the limits of logic, we must borrow more subtle conceptual tools such as Intuition and Imagination. These fuzzy-logic spies can go where mundane reason can't. Unfortunately, without the oversight of plodding reason, those freewheeling agents are easily deceived. So when they report back that some ineffable, eternal, and infinite "thing" is the ultimate cause of our world, a healthy skepticism is in order. And anything specific we might say about that indescribable thing, beyond bare existence, must be clearly labeled as fiction. Yet if we can find no better explanation, a provisional belief is justified.

How often have I said to you that when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth?

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 - 1930), (Sherlock Holmes) The Sign of Four, 1890

"only two kinds of possible answers are permissible---an infinite regress of causation or something that is inherently self-existing".

REASONS FOR POSTULATING THE EXISTENCE OF A **CREATIVE FIRST CAUSE**

1. **Why does the universe exist?**

- a. Infinite regress of causation.
- b. Causation by something inherently self-existent.

An infinite series of multiverses is subject to the old open-end question: what caused the cause before the first cause? The true but tepid answer is that Infinite Causation is arbitrarily defined to be beyond physical cause and effect, hence also beyond the reach of human reason.

A First Cause, or Prime Mover is also beyond ordinary cause and effect, but it gives logic a stable starting point. So I'll go with option (b), because it's more amenable to reason.

2. **What kind of causation?**

- a. Accidental
- b. Intentional

Random causation is how accidents happen. Random causes don't add up to anything, because each positive event cancels a negative event, and vice-versa. The result is Entropy.

Intentional causation is how designers work. Design builds big things from little things because they are selected for compatibility. So again I choose (b) because it is creative rather than destructive.

3. **What kind of causation mechanism?**

- a. Physical
- b. Metaphysical
- c. Both

If the First Cause was physical, presumably it would be subject to physical laws, and it would have to exist in space-time. A physical cause would be finite and temporal, hence it would be unable to create space-time in accordance with Big Bang theory.

On the other hand, a meta-physical cause would only be subject to the laws of mental phenomena (i.e. logical, mathematical relationships). Such a cause would not be limited to a specific time or place.

But if the hypothetical cause was metaphysical, like mathematics, how could it create and interact with physical stuff like matter? The only resolution I see is for the Prime Mover to have something in common with both matter and mind. So in this case I'll select (c).

4. **What is the commonality between Cause and Effect?**

- a. matter = energy
- b. matter = energy = information
- c. matter = energy = information = mind

We now know that matter is just a solid form of fluid energy. But energy is subject to the dissipative effects of Entropy; hence finite in duration.

We have also learned that energy is essentially vibrations in empty space; and that space is not really nothing, but consists of a "quantum foam"; which is merely random alternations between

something and nothing, like the 1s and 0s of digital computation (i.e. information).

In addition, particle physicists have come to realize that even sub-atomic “parts” of matter can only be defined as fields of mathematical possibility. In other words, an electron is not made of matter, but of potential energy. And potential is just a way of saying, “un-manifest” or “not yet real”. So even electrons and quarks, the building blocks of matter, also seem to be made of immaterial, statistical information.

Therefore, option (c) is beginning to make sense, in a roundabout, semi-rational way. From the perspective of cutting-edge science it looks like everything in this world is essentially a form of Information. But we can only “know” the information after the interaction of matter and energy with our physical senses, where they transform back into the mind stuff that consciousness can see.

5. What is the relationship of First Cause to Creation?

- a. Parent to child
- b. Mind to concept.
- c. Designer to product

This is a trick question. If the Prime Mover is actually an eternal/infinite Mind, then we can only infer the possible contents of that Other Mind, by extrapolation from the contents of our own mind. And the possibilities are literally unlimited. The best way to know another mind is via communication. But the only reliable information we have from the Informer is the ambiguous physical and meta-physical world we inhabit. So your guess is as good as mine. But I’ll just say, “all of the above”.

6. Conclusion - For these and many other reasons, I assume as an axiom that our evolving world began at the beginning of space-time as a creative idea in the mind of an eternal/infinite Being, most commonly referred to by inquisitive humans as God. So that’s my theory, what’s yours?

7. Inference - A viable theory should predict some future observation. So the primary prediction of my theory is this:

If the universe was created as an act of will by a Mind Being, then the basic substance of the universe will be found to be some form of Information.

A few physicists are already tentatively referring to matter on the subatomic level as “clouds of information”. For now, that’s just a metaphor, because they don’t have any better materialist description. However, I predict that, as time goes by, they will become more comfortable with using information-related terms to describe the foundations of reality.

Cosmologists have conceded that the ultimate cause of the physical universe is either self-existing or an eternal regress of causation. As evidenced by the transmission of body design data over millions of years via transformation from body to DNA and back again, basic information does lend itself to perpetual renewal, if not eternal regression of causation. Maybe the scientists will eventually conclude that the kick-start of causation was a creative choice, a teleological intention, in an eternal and self-existent Mind. But probably not in my lifetime.