

Are we alone?

A thought experiment with a great conclusion/solution

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If the Drake Equation is considered a thought experiment (which it is not, merely an approximated guess based on some parameters which we absolutely can not estimate with any reasonable notion of accuracy), then I can call this short article a thought experiment as well. Recently, society has allowed us to create our own words and definitions.

If you listen to the information brought out by SETI and interviews with Dr. Frank Drake of the Drake Equation, they talk about looking to the stars to find evidence of life "out there." Such searches are finding fewer friends (and money) to fund their monumental task of scouring the the entire universe.

From http://www.astrodigital.org/astronomy/drake_equation.html, we have The Drake Equation is a model that, given a series of parameters, could estimate the number of intelligent civilizations that existed in the Milky Way galaxy to which our broadcasts might reach over time (whatever that means in the real world). The first six terms are used to describe how galactic races are being created, and the last term might estimate the length of time these races may be around.

The Drake Equation is:

$$N = R * f_p * n_e * f_l * f_i * f_c * L$$

where:

N = The number of broadcasting civilizations.

R = Average rate of formation of suitable stars (stars/year) in the Milky Way galaxy

f_p = Fraction of stars that form planets

n_e = Average number of habitable planets per star

f_l = Fraction of habitable planets (**n_e**) where life emerges

f_i = Fraction of habitable planets with life where intelligent evolves

f_c = Fraction of planets with intelligent life capable of interstellar communication

L = Years a civilization remains detectable

The following values have been commonly used for the Drake Equation:

$$R = 10$$

$$f_p = 0.5$$

$$n_e = 2.0$$

$$f_l = 1.0$$

$$f_i = 0.01$$

$$f_c = 0.01$$

$$L = 10000$$

The actual result is a number – irrelevant because we have no way of knowing what the parameters really should be. We may as well try to verify these numbers with Elton John in his song “Rocket Man” for all it would matter. It's a complete guess that has spawned a multi-billion dollar (over time) research group called SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence).

After about 60 years, they have found nothing; not a sign of communication from another civilization to us. That seems so strange when, every day, UFOs who just don't seem to be from this planet, are being seen. While the lofty PhD's of SETI produce articles that are read by only a handful of like-minded scientists, when every day, we have reports of alien abductions.

Why - oh why - isn't the Government researching these current sightings? Of course, they have. The answer lies in the mountains of data and experience reports collected since the late 1940s and up until today. They clearly don't want to comment about the information they have discovered, especially with the very embarrassing leaks and sights that seem to abound in the sky.

I really like this quote from the article *The Cost of SETI: Infographic* by Phil Plait in the "Bad Astronomy" column found at

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/badastronomy/2011/05/01/the-cost-of-seti-infographic/#.XCQbvFxKjIU> from May 1, 2011: "On the other hand, as a skeptic, I understand the desire to ask why we should spend this money on SETI, why we should spend it looking for alien intelligences? There are lots of reasons, actually, but I still think the best one is simple: Because we should."

OK - here is a response to you from a CERTIFIED NON-SKEPTIC who has met aliens twice, once at the age of 5 or so and once at the age of 30. Why should we spend money on SETI and look for alien intelligence? We are paying for a large building and a raft of publications from PhDs who can't get a job in a university due to the overwhelming number of doctorates in astronomy and astrophysics. If the civilizations we are attempting to find are equal to us, we can't get to them and it will take forever to have a two-way chat. Otherwise the alien civilizations are far superior to us. By sending out various messages OR picking theirs up, we could really cause attention to be placed on our small little planet and they come down and take us over, or destroy us and take the hoard of buried treasure we have. MAKES NO SENSE does it? It's a bad idea to start a "friendship" that ultimately ends in the demise of your civilization, at least I believe.

Then again, we have the Rendlesham Forest code which is a pleasant thing. It might not be genuine, or it might be. If it is, then let's do some more digging. If we can prove it to be a fake, then let's forget it. I would think it wouldn't cost more than \$100,000 (a small fraction of the SETI operating budget) to make a reasonable determination on this subject. The veracity of the Rendlesham Forest code and the secrets it might unlock are staggering, especially on the subject of Hy Brasil.

Of course, as I have alluded to at the beginning of this article, we don't have to search much farther than the hotline to individual MUFON chapters to find the hundreds of sightings weekly, the search for extraterrestrial life being realized on a daily basis right in our back yard. Like the barely-funded MUFON does with their volunteers, simply find out what people are seeing. Use the content of their stories to create some sort of unified model of what is going on in the UFO and extraterrestrial world out there. THOSE aliens who visit us daily know a lot about us already, and likely don't give a damn about Bach's Brandenburg Concerto Number 2.

Thanks to my wonderful friends from Tennessee MUFON who spend their time researching the truth about our contact with (likely) alien intelligence. Your hard work is appreciated.