

Determinism

The post Newtonian view codified by the French mathematician Laplace was that the world was deterministic. The question of how self-awareness arose and apparent free will was left for debate.

In the 20th century, two new areas of Science – Quantum Mechanics and Chaos theory, undermined determinism.

Quantum mechanics ultimately requires scientist to adopt one of four positions.

Many worlds originally put forward by Hugh Everett. In its favour it mathematically “works”. Against it you seem to set aside Occams razor to postulate an almost infinite number of other universes to allow the one we live in to exist.

Faster-than-light transfer of information.

Not liked by any Einstein fan.

Super-determinism.

Even the initial conditions. Not liked by scientists because it seems to set aside free will.

Copenhagen interpretation.

There is no explanation.

When push comes to shove, most scientists vacillate between Copenhagen and many-worlds because they can't stand to believe in either of the other two.

Personally I don't see a conflict between super-determinism and free will. As God created time He must sit outside time and can “see” from the beginning of eternity to the end as if it were a film stretched out frame-by-frame before him. But I can watch video reruns of a football match and know what's going to happen next without taking

away the original free will of the footballer (assuming he had one in the first place).

Also I think much of our problem comes from the way we approach questions. We adopt Aristotelian logic and believe in the tertium non-datum – there is no third way. Everything is black or white, is or isn't.

But if you look at the mathematics of the quantum world it follows a different “quantum logic” that comes out of the mathematics without really allowing a natural explanation of what's happening. (because quantum mechanics requires the use of imaginary numbers in probability theory and imaginary numbers don't exist).

So we argue endlessly about whether the world is A or B without ever thinking it could be both. Do you believe in Creationism or Evolution?

Setting aside the fact that Darwinism is complete rubbish (you don't need to be a Christian to know that) I personally believe both. When I'm looking at rocks on the beach I believe them to be millions of years old. When I read Genesis I believe God made the world in 7 days.

Somehow they must both be true but my brain because the way it's wired isn't able to comprehend how – I just accept it – like some scientists accepting the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics – that is there isn't an explanation.

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