# of Physics, Chemistry, and Biology

## the Big Bang is the Culprit

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### In the beginning was the word: \* BIG BANG\*

### ...TRULY, IT IS THE CULPRIT...

 +10<sup>-43</sup> second: <u>Planck time</u> – start of <u>PHYSICS</u>: Temperature 10<sup>32</sup> K; Energy per particle 10<sup>28</sup> eV
 Density 10<sup>97</sup> kg/m<sup>3</sup>: EXPANSION OF SPACE →
 Continuous Decrease of Temperature & Density: <u>Supersymmetry breaking</u> (gravity detaches from GUT – Grand Unification Theory),
 Matter/Antimatter asymmetry (violation of parity): (10<sup>9</sup>+1)/10<sup>9</sup> • 10<sup>-35</sup> second: <u>COSMIC INFLATION</u> – hyperexpansion <u>10<sup>30</sup>x</u> !!! <u>Free</u> quarks, leptons & photons: Energy <10<sup>23</sup> eV,Temp.<10<sup>27</sup>K GUT breaks down (strong nuclear force detached from EW)

> • 10<sup>-10</sup> second: <u>HADRON ERA</u> ELECTROWEAK FORCE breaks down to electromagnetic & weak nuclear force: Energy 100 GeV, Temperature 1 PK

0.1 millisecond: <u>LEPTON ERA:</u>
 Energy 100 MeV, Temperature 1 TK, Density 10<sup>17</sup> kg/m<sup>3</sup>





 10 seconds: <u>Radiation era</u> Energy 500 keV, Temperature 5 GK, Density 10<sup>4</sup> kg/m<sup>3</sup>



• 3 minutes: Simple nuclei created: H/He = 3/1 (Mass ratio) Very hot relic radiation dominates the scene

#### • 380 thousand years: Detachment of radiation from matter – transparent Universe Electrons attached to atomic nuclei – first <u>neutral atoms</u> Dark Age begins



 1 billion years: First mature galaxies and galactic clusters; birth of less massive <u>Generation II</u> stars

## THE ORIGIN OF CHEMISTRY

# It is well-known that carbon is required to make physicists

## Robert Dicke (1916-1997) American physicist

## Whence the CARBON?

#### R. Alpher & G. Gamow (1948-1950): Big



S. Weinberg, 1977: **The First 3 Minutes**: Primordial elements: 3/4 H; 1/4 He; (Li,Be,B)

**WMAP** – background microwave radiation 2003: Age of the Universe: **13.7 gigayears** 

First H/He stars formed 200 Myrs after the Big Bang; Ignition of <u>thermonuclear</u> (>12 MK) <u>reactions</u> in their cores

#### **Big Bang theory:**

ridiculed, because it failed to create **C** etc.



#### <u>H. A. Bethe</u>, 1939: **Basic Thermonuclear Reaction** in All Stars:Transmutation of Hydrogen into Helium via **p-p chain** (0.7 % of the rest-mass)



<u>E. E. Salpeter</u>, 1952: miraculous synthesis of **CARBON** in *triple-alpha process* <u>F. Hoyle</u>, 1954: *Anthropic principle*: probability of capture of alpha-particles is enhanced due to approximate **resonance** of energies: ground state of *triple-alpha*  $\approx$  excited state of <sup>12</sup>C (7. 82 MeV vs. 8.13 MeV)

E. M. & G. R. Burbidge, W. Fowler, F. Hoyle: nucleogenesis Synthesis of the elements in stars. Rev. Mod. Phys. <u>29</u>(1957), 547

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## **Elements Cycle in the Universe**

- a) <u>Carbon (Z = 6) to Iron (Z = 26)</u>: Series of thermonuclear reactions due to substantial increases of core temperatures of ageing stars (up to **3 GK** in massive stars). Time span for a star is inversely proportional to the square of its initial mass (10<sup>6</sup> to 10<sup>11</sup> years)
  - b) <u>Mass-loss of Stars</u>: Stellar Winds & Supernova Explosions (<u>Enrichment of</u> <u>interstellar medium</u> with heavier elements ["*metals*"])

(<u>Supernova 1987A</u> remnant in the Large Magellanic Cloud – 165,000 light years)



c) Neutron capture during SN hours-long explosions creates the rest of elements (Cu...precious metals...U); very low abundances! 21-I-11 ORIGINS Phys - Chem - Bio 9 d) Enriched Interstellar medium
(diluted cold gas and dust)
concentrated into Giant Molecular
Clouds. Stars of generation II are
born in groups by gravitational
contraction of cloud fragments

Orion nebula (1,300 light years) →



<u>Giant Molecular Clouds</u> are <u>big</u> (several hundred light years), <u>massive</u> (up to million Solar masses), <u>cold</u> (10 ÷ 200 K) and <u>stable</u> for many hundred million of years

#### Infrared & MW spectroscopy: >100

molecules found in the interstellar space (di-atomic to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and fullerenes)



e) Formation of <u>Generation III</u> of Stars: abundance of metals increased to  $\approx 2$  % (solar). Our Sun was born 4.6 billion years ago. It will release luminous energy from the **p-p chain** for the next 6.6 billion years. Then it will evolve to red giant star; Earth will evaporate. Finally, Sun will collapse into very hot white dwarf surrounded by a planetary nebula

White dwarf *density* will be million times higher than water; its *radius* as small as of the (former) Earth





## The Beginning of Life on Earth



- 4.6 billion years: accretion disk of the Solar
 System evolved in ProtoSun & Planets

- 3.5 billion years: first microfossils





- 2.7 billion years: eukaryotic cells

- 800 million years: first multicellular organisms



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#### - 600 million years: Blue-Green Algae on the Ground





<u>- 210 million years</u>: Dinosaurs; *Sudden extinction*: - 65 million years

- 80 million years: Birds



<u>- 100 million years</u>: Mammals





- 5 million years: hominids



- 100,000 years: Homo sapiens sapiens

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<u>C. H. Lineweaver, T. M. Davis</u> (2002): Life on Earth appeared soon after the end of Heavy Bombardment (- 4 Gyr); thus in the Universe a *simple (monocellular) life is common* 



# However, *complex life* evolved here very slowly; thus in the Universe it *is very rare*

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## **Speculative deliberation**

Genetic code codes 20-22 **aminoacids**, all optically <u>left-handed</u>. **Saccharides** are, however, always <u>right-handed</u> although in the nature both optical versions are abundant Is the **similar biochemistry** and an **universal genetic code** the proof of a common (unique?) origin of life? <u>Is the life</u>: I. A **lucky coincidence** of an improbable accident, or II. an **inevitable consequence** of the evolution course of the Universe?

In case I. we are most probably <u>alone</u> in the Universe; in case II. it is suscipiously strange that we were not yet visited by the Aliens (<u>Fermi paradox</u>)

## We are alone in the Universe or we are not; either way it's mind-boggling

Lee Du Bridge, president, Caltech (1979)



### **State of Physics**



**BEGINNING** at Planck time **Evolved due to the expansion of** space: **3** generations of mass particles 6 flavours of <u>quarks</u> (+ antiquarks): d, u, s, c, b, t 6 leptons (3 modes of neutrino; **3 modes of electron**) 4 fundamental interactions: **GRAVITY:** universal, attractive, very weak, infinite range: gravitons **ELECTROMAGNETIC:** applies to charged particles: photons attractive/repulsive, infinite range 2 NUCLEAR: strong & weak: very short range; gluons, bosons W + Z

## **State of Chemistry**

**Building stones:** 

3 minutes after the Big Bang: atomic nuclei H, He, Li, Be, B

380 thousand years after BB: neutral atoms of H, He, Li, Be, B

200 million years after the BB: thermonuclear reactions in the stellar cores (C, N, O, F,...Fe, Co, Ni)

203 million yearsafter BB: Cu, Zn,...Pt,Au,...Th, Pa, Uduring the explosions of firstsupernovaestars)

<u>203,,000,000.001</u> years after BB: Beginning of true chemistry in the <u>cold</u> interstellar space: neutral atoms and molecules, including organic chemicals

Soon after: Complex molecules on planets & moons ORIGINS Phys - Chem - Bio 18

## **State of Biology**

#### Dark Ages:

#### **Definition of Life:** *unknown*

Start of an unknown form of life in an unknown corner of the Universe in an unknown time?

Panspermia to Earth is almost certainly impossible

#### Life on the Earth:

9.7 – 10.2 billion years after the Big bang: most probably in the depth of the oceans (black smokers) – monocellular life
13.1 billion years after BB: Multicellular life on the ground
13.6 billion years after BB: Mammals
13.699 900 000 billion years after BB: Homo sapiens sapiens
13.700 000 000 billion years after BB: this lecture is just finished

#### THE END © CZECH LEARNED SOCIETY

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