

Is the Universe a Computer?

The rise of the Computer Age, along with the associated Information Age, has inspired theoretical speculation among some mathematicians and scientists that the physical Universe itself is [nothing more than a computer](#). This theory, dubbed “[Digital Physics](#)” sees the quantum particles of the Universe as digital bits that process information according to the laws of nature in a way similar to that of digital bits in a computer.

(Note that the concept of “Digital Physics” is different from the idle fantasy that the Universe is an [unreal computer simulation](#) that has trapped human minds into a virtual existence. This computer simulation fantasy, popularized by science fiction narratives like “[The Matrix](#)” movie, is as unproductive as it is unreal, and leads [nowhere](#). In the Digital Physics theory, the Universe is real. It’s just that it acts like a computer or information processing system.)

But besides Digital Physics, there is another way that the Universe may be acting as a giant computer, and in a way that might point to our collective purpose for being here during our physical lives.

As explained [elsewhere](#), the Universe appears to have been designed, created and fine-tuned so as to produce an extraordinarily special planet, Earth, in such a way as to allow for the long-term existence and flourishing of humans. These humans have been designed and created with the intelligence and resources to process information themselves. This information is being processed here on the Earth. So if the Universe is thought of as a giant computer, the Earth could be thought of as the central processing unit of that computer.

So what kind of information is being processed on this Earth Processing Unit (EPU)? As also explained [elsewhere](#), the vast amount of complex specified information in the genetic code (and [physical body plans](#)) that has been deposited on the Earth could only have been designed and created by God. Along with the genetic code itself, God has provided humans with the intelligence, and with the microbiological machinery, required to observe and understand the genetic code. And remarkably, the microbiological machinery that God has provided even allows humans to [manipulate the genetic code](#). So not only are humans able to observe, investigate and understand how the code works; we are also able to experiment with it. In many ways, it’s like a young child being given an Erector Set or Tinkertoy Set for Christmas. Think of the possibilities!

The ability we have been given to work with the genetic code is not generally available for other parts of God’s creation. For example, God created galaxies, stars and planets that can be understood and appreciated by humans, but we don’t have the ability to manipulate them in any meaningful way.

Gene research, on the other hand, holds the promise of tremendous potential benefits for all life forms (as well as potential dangers and drawbacks, of course). Indeed the promise of gene research is apparent to everyone, and is supported by all countries and all political groups. It is the type of activity that is carried on strongly regardless of the type of government within a country, or by which political party is in power.

But why would an all-knowing, all-powerful God need humans to do genetic research? Doesn't He already know all the answers?

God does know all the answers in His higher-dimensional existence outside of time. But who knows? Perhaps He obtained these answers by running actual trials like our own time-based three-dimensional existence. Perhaps He ran these trials with free-willed intelligent beings like us, who study and manipulate genes to boot-strap our own self-interested self-improvements. Perhaps the most promising of these improvements are noted and applied to future life forms in future Universes.

For example, what if geneticists are able to derive a genetic change that makes humans automatically immune to the malaria parasite? If this change is safe and implementable, it will certainly be given and applied to most, if not all, affected humans. But is the change beneficial in the long-term? Perhaps there is some unexpected complicated interaction between humans and malaria that is more beneficial than immunity. One way to find out (perhaps the best way) is to try it and see.

What if an inherent form of malarial immunity had been designed in humans from the beginning? Perhaps the entire history of humankind would be improved. One way to find out (perhaps the best way) would be for God to note this change and apply it in a future universe. Perhaps this is the way that God chose to obtain the knowledge He has, and to create a perfect four-dimensional universal existence from a succession of imperfect three-dimensional universes. Perhaps this is His method of creating four-dimensional perfection out of three-dimensional imperfection.

As another example, what if geneticists are able to figure out how to create new and beautiful forms of butterflies, beetles, or other life forms? Perhaps the beautiful life forms we enjoy today were designed by other intelligent beings in previous universes. Perhaps God stored the best designs and included them in the basic package of life forms for our Universe. Perhaps the life forms designed and built here will be included in the seeding of future universes.

If the Earth is the Universe's central information processor, what is the analogy to electronic computer inputs and outputs? That is, how did God place the genetic information onto Earth, and if He's interested, how will he extract any updated information from Earth for future use? This we do not know, at least at the present time.

There are no currently observed processes that can account for this. But we can still speculate, and so we do. Some possible ways that life could have been placed on Earth are discussed in "[How did Life Arise and Evolve?](#)"

What about the output side of the EPU? One way that God could intend for human-based genetic changes to be picked up and used elsewhere might be for humans to put these changes into spores and viruses, and to expel them from Earth into space. We have the capability to do this type of thing, and we know how to build space capsules that would protect the spores and viruses for long periods of time. Perhaps God would use these high-tech versions of Noah's Ark by creating universes that expand and intersect with our own Universe, thereby picking up the information for their own use long after we are dead and gone. Perhaps that's how our own Universe picked up the information that ultimately defined us. Perhaps Earth is a plant in God's garden that flowers, and sends spores and seeds aloft to pollinate future universes. Why not?