

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Life in a parallel universe

The possibility that there is more than one universe will be discussed at a free public lecture at the UTAS Sandy Bay campus tomorrow night.

Organised by the UTAS School of Mathematics and Physics as part of the International Year of Astronomy 2009, the lecture will examine whether our Universe is embedded in a larger hierarchy of parallel universes called the Multiverse.

The theories behind quantum cosmology, which allows for the existence of multiple universes, will be discussed by ANU astronomer Dr Charley Lineweaver.

“Sounds crazy but I will try to explain why it makes some sense,” Dr Lineweaver said.

Dr Lineweaver will also question why the constants of physics such as the speed of light, the strength of gravity and the ratio of the proton mass to the electron mass have the values that they do.

“For some cosmologists, these constants have special values in our universe, which seem to make it ‘fit for life’,” he said.

“In the context of a multiverse, each universe might have different values for these constants, and then anthropic selection could explain the apparent fitness of our universe to host life.”

The lecture is at 8pm on Tuesday, 20 October, 2009 at the Physics Theatre 1, UTAS, Sandy Bay campus

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