

BIOLOGICAL “CHANCE”; MORE DEATH FOR DARWINISM

Chapter 2

By Karl Duff – July 17, 2007

We are still considering how simple statistical math puts Darwinian concepts of random chance into the ‘death zone’. In our first episode of this discussion, we saw how rapidly we can “run out of time” for random events to produce anything useful.

We demonstrated that to randomly select letters from the English alphabet (say, from a Scrabble pile) to form a particular 13-letter word provides only once chance in 10^{18} (1 with eighteen zeroes after it) of finding the correct word. At the rate of one selection per second, it would require ten times the entire life of the universe (based on evolutionary thinking) just to find the correct 13-letter word once!

We also demonstrated how astronomically improbable it is to consider even the most simple protein chain of approximately 100 amino acids occurring at random. Even making initial assumptions which make all the ‘building block’ amino acids available and assuming all the necessary molecules are immediately available to each other for selection, the probability of this happening randomly are of the order of 1 chance in 10^{130} (1 with 130 zeroes after it.)

Correctly finding one atom in our solar system has about 1 chance in 10^{40} . Selecting one atom out of the entire known universe has a probability of about 1 chance in 10^{70} . Can you vaguely comprehend how remote the chances are of the random formation of the above protein containing 100 amino acids?

One of the problems ignored by Darwinists is that we don’t have ‘all the time in the world’ for things to happen by chance. Darwinists blandly say things like “Given enough time... anything can happen by chance, including a monkey writing all Shakespeare’s plays by randomly playing on a typewriter.” (Remember the time required just to find a 13-letter word!)

But there is only a certain amount of time available and the random processes we are considering can also occur only so rapidly. For example, a representative maximum speed at which interactions could take place

between atomic particles would be the speed of light, about 10^9 centimeters per second. Representative minimum distances required for interaction would be about an atomic diameter, or 10^{-8} centimeters. Hence the maximum number of interactions at the speed of light occurring over an atomic diameter would be 10^{17} per second. (Between molecules it would be much less than this.)

The maximum number of possible such events per atom over what evolutionary scientists estimate to be the life of the universe (10^{17} seconds) would be $10^{17} \times 10^{17} = 10^{34}$. For all of the 10^{70} atoms in the known universe there can therefore occur only a maximum of about 10^{104} events.

This is a reasonably approximate order of the outer bound regarding how many probability events (i.e., numbers of events of chance happenings) are available to the universe for random events to happen. Though incredibly large, this number 10^{104} is still trillions of trillions times much smaller than the number of events necessary to produce one protein molecule of only 100 amino acids by chance.

We have hardly gotten started. Consider the simplest living cell, which has about 100 different kinds of proteins in it, multiple strands of DNA and RNA and is enclosed in a special membrane holding everything together. It can produce fats, metabolize energy, manufacture all 100 of its different types of proteins and its DNA, (containing over 100,000 nucleotides) and thereby reproduce itself.

We know that life was initiated in some way. The ability for extremely complex assemblies of organic materials to organize and self-replicate obviously came from somewhere. But it didn't occur by chance.

In the next chapter we will discuss how all of life is organized into segregated unique groups, from proteins all the way up, giving virtually no evidence of sequential evolutionary development.

Karl.M. Duff
PhD. Mechanical Engineering, M.I.T.