

CLASSIC DARWINISM: DEATH BY MATH

Chapter 1

By Karl Duff – July 17, 2007

Try this simple experiment. Shuffle a deck of 52 cards, noting secretly one of the cards and where it is located. Draw the card and without looking at it correctly identify it to someone. Anyone older than ten will immediately suspect it was a trick – that somehow you knew ahead and ‘fixed’ the result. And of course, this is true, isn’t it?

If you then shuffle the cards and deal him the top five and he discovers you have dealt him a royal flush poker hand, he will be certain you are cheating in some way; i.e., that this was not a random event by laws of chance. And of course, he is correct again.

It is the innate power of even an adolescent mind to detect events or circumstances of extremely improbable chance. Only a small child would accept the idea that an unlikely event was perpetrated without design and purpose. It would be somewhat like an astronaut landing on Mars and discovering a section of steel reinforcing rod laying on the surface. He would instantly know it was not the result of random natural forces.

The chances of drawing a royal flush at random are about 1 in 640,000. That it might occur in a particular pre-designated suit, say spades, is about 1 in 2 ½ million, or 4 in 10,000,000 or .0000004.

To handle the very large numbers we must consider here, let us employ exponential numbers. One million or 1,000,000 is equal to 10 multiplied by itself 6 times and can be written as 10^6 . Since the chances of dealing a spade royal flush are .0000004, this can also be expressed as 4×10^{-7} .

Now let us see how even simple sounding propositions can quickly become astronomically improbable. Let’s suppose we desire to select a particular word out of an unlimited pile of Scrabble letters, purely at random. The chance of selecting the first letter correctly is $1/26$. The chance of obtaining the correct second letter is also $1/26$. The chances of getting them BOTH correct at the same time is $(1/26)^2$, or about 1 chance in 680. Odds decrease rapidly as the number of letters increases. Suppose we want to select a particular word containing 13 letters (say the word “improbability”). The probability of correctly picking out the 13 letters correctly in one try is about $(1/26)^{13}$. This is approximately equivalent to $(1/10)^{18}$ or 10^{-18} .

Let’s suppose we start a process to actually do this. We don’t have unlimited time. We certainly don’t have more time than the universe has been in existence, do we? Evolutionary scientists think the age of the universe is about 5-8 billion years or 10^{17}

seconds (the number ten followed by sixteen zeroes.) That means that you could attempt to draw this 13-letter word every second for ten times the entire life of the universe (according to evolutionists) before likely finding the word once.

Even using a computer operating at one million operations per second would result in finding the word an average of only once about every 100,000 years. Remember this when someone tells you that anything can happen by chance, if given enough time! There generally is *not* enough time, especially when considering possible random formation of organic molecules (i.e., classic Darwinism)! We do not have an infinite amount of time for Darwinism to “do its thing”, as you will soon see.

With these perspectives, let us now regard prospects of amino acids spontaneously forming into protein molecules by chance. Proteins contain typically about 250-300 amino acids in sequence in a long ‘chain’, selecting from among twenty amino acids. Assuming (a) all amino acids are *already* available in sufficient quantities and (b) they can be selected and aligned in some fashion similar to choosing letters for a word, chances of randomly forming even the simplest protein of 100 amino acids in a correct sequence is about $(1/20)^{100}$ or 10^{-130} (one chance in ten followed by 129 zeroes!)

This incredibly small likelihood is given more perspective when one considers the likelihood of correctly finding a single designated atom out of the entire universe at random. That would be simple by comparison! The known universe has only about 10^{70} atoms!

In the next lesson, we will see that even very rapid interactions between atoms at the speed of light over atomic distances cannot somehow overcome the huge obstacles that face attempts to explain complex biological structures ever occurring by chance, even over the entire life of the universe.

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