

Science says: Darwinian Evolution is Impossible

Dean Taylor

Let nobody fool you. Darwinian evolution IS impossible.

The evidence for this assertion is so overwhelming that it is astonishing that any rationally minded scientist can still cling to Darwin's 150 year old idea that non-living matter became living matter which became you via a series of random processes.

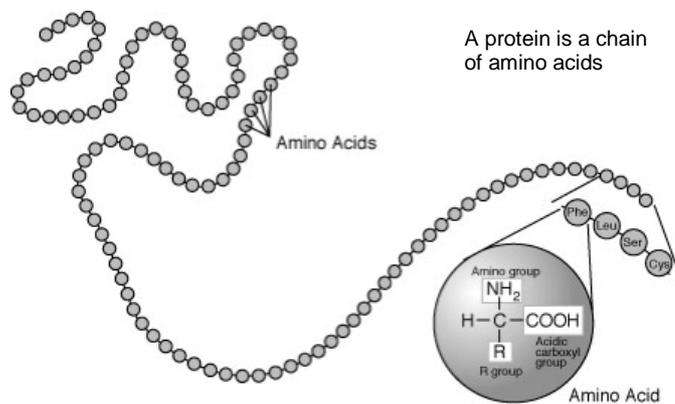
Here are 4 reasons why such a scenario is impossible.

1) Statistical Probability

The chance of life emerging this way is comparable with the chance that 'a tornado sweeping through a junk-yard might assemble a Boeing 747 from the materials therein'

(Sir Fred Hoyle, Professor of Astronomy, Cambridge University)

The building blocks of living cells are proteins. At least 1000 proteins are required in even a 'simple' cell and each protein is made of hundreds of smaller building blocks called amino acids.



It is quite a straightforward procedure to apply well understood statistical principles to calculate an upper bound for the probability of these proteins arising by chance. The chance of assembling one small protein consisting of 100 amino acids (assuming – to make things easier – that we have only the 20 useful amino acids to hand) is 20^{100} or just 1 in 10^{130} (10 with 130 zeroes). In other words we would need 10^{130} trials to get just one useful protein. But this is far more than the maximum number of interactions between atoms and molecules there could ever have been in the history of the Universe! (generous estimate for number of atoms in universe (10^{80}) x generous upper bound for number of interactions between atoms (10^{12} per second) x 30 billion years as upper bound for age of universe (10^{18} seconds) = 10^{110}). It is unrealistic therefore to believe that even a single protein could have ever arisen by chance.

'The known universe had not had time since the Big Bang to create all possible proteins of length 200 once....It would take at least 10^{67} times the current age of the universe to create all possible proteins of length 200 at least once.'

(Stuart Kaufmann in his book 'Investigations')

'Truly, the thought of even one single functional protein arising by chance requires blind faith that will not or cannot grasp the numbers! Such thoughts are pure fantasy and have **nothing to do with science.**'

(Dr John Marcus, biochemist, cooperative research centre for tropical plant pathology, university of queensland, Australia).

To make matters worse there are many factors which work against us. For example, there are 2 versions of each amino acid - left and right handed - but the right handed ones must be kept out of the way somehow. Then there is the problem of UV light and water which actively break the amino acid chains as we try to assemble them - like a naughty child knocking down our tower as we try to build it in the correct order, blindfolded, 200 bricks high. And remember we need at least 1000 different towers all constructed at the same time and in the same place.

‘In the face of such stunningly unfavourable odds, how could any scientist with any sense of honesty appeal to chance interactions as the explanation for the complexity we observe in living systems? To do so, with conscious awareness of these numbers, in my opinion represents a **serious breach of scientific integrity.**’

(Dr John Baumgardner, geophysics, Los Alamos National Laboratory).

‘So why do biologists indulge in unsubstantiated fantasies in order to deny what is so patently obvious, that the 200,000 amino acid chains, and hence **life, did not appear by chance?**’

(Sir Fred Hoyle, Professor of Astronomy, Cambridge University)

2) The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics

All we have to do is nothing, and everything deteriorates, collapses, breaks down, wears out, all by itself.

(Isaac Asimov)

Left to itself a 747 will eventually corrode and fall apart, water will flow downhill and a banana will turn to mush. It's not only common sense it's a fundamental universal law for which there are no exceptions.

‘...**there are no known violations of the second law of thermodynamics.**’

(Dr. John Ross, Harvard (evolutionist), Chem. and Eng. News, vol.58, 1980, p. 40)

The 2nd Law can be described thus; Every system, left to its own devices, always tends to move from more complex to less complex (from order to disorder), its energy becoming transformed into lower levels of availability (for work). The 747 begins as a highly ordered structure but in time it will corrode, parts will fall off and so it becomes less ordered, less complex. Water stored high up in a reservoir is available for doing work – falling through a turbine to generate electricity for example. But as it flows downhill its potential for doing useful work decreases.

But Darwinian evolution requires an increase in order / complexity. For biogenesis (life from non-life) amino acids must be assembled into highly ordered protein structures. Some of these structures are complex miniature ‘machines’ – e.g. kinesin and the bacterial flagellum. And if more complex life is to emerge from simpler life then by definition complexity is increased. This is contrary to the 2nd Law. It cannot happen. Mush will never turn into a banana let alone YOU!

“If your theory is found to be against the second law of thermodynamics, I can give you no hope; there is nothing for [your theory] but to collapse in the deepest humiliation.”

(Arthur S. Eddington, The Nature of the Physical World (1930), p. 74.)

But this has not stopped evolutionists from trying to get round the 2nd Law. One common argument is that although water naturally flows downhill from a reservoir, if a water wheel is connected by shafts, belts, etc. to a pump, the pump can raise *some* of the water to an

elevation higher than that of the reservoir. Doesn't this violate the Law? No. The net flow of water is still downhill in agreement with the second Law (and the small proportion of water which was temporarily raised to a higher level will ultimately flow downhill too). What the argument misses is that this can only happen because there was a cleverly designed mechanism (the pump) already in place.

‘..the fateful principle known as the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which stands today as the principal pillar of classical physics left intact by the march of science, proclaims that **the fundamental processes of nature are irreversible. Nature moves only one way**’

(Lincoln Barnett, The Universe and Dr. Einstein (1957), pp. 102-103)

The only reason that some of the water was able to be raised higher than the reservoir was because an intelligent agent had designed and created a complex mechanism - the water pump. In the same way – it is true that there can be an apparent increase in complexity in a living cell for it to grow and be maintained but this is only as a result of there being complex mechanisms (miniature machines and associated DNA ‘instructions’) within the cell. Who designed and created these mechanisms? There is no solution here to the problem of how life could begin spontaneously without these mechanisms already in place nor how new mechanisms could appear for biological evolution to occur.

A car factory may use programmed robots to assemble its cars. As the cars are assembled their complexity increases but only because there is a machine – the robot – pre-programmed with instructions from an intelligent designer. Once the car has left the factory the 2nd Law ensures that it gradually wears out and falls apart. The only way to create a more complex model would be for an intelligent designer to design new parts and for an intelligent programmer to reprogram the robots to assemble those parts.

Just as the self assembly of cars and 747's is contrary to the 2nd Law and therefore impossible and water flowing uphill by itself is contrary to the 2nd Law and therefore impossible so too Darwinian evolution is contrary to the 2nd Law and therefore impossible.

3) Irreducible Complexity

‘If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.’

(Charles Darwin)

When Darwin wrote the above he could have had no idea how far Biological Sciences would progress and how much they would reveal about the complexity of life.

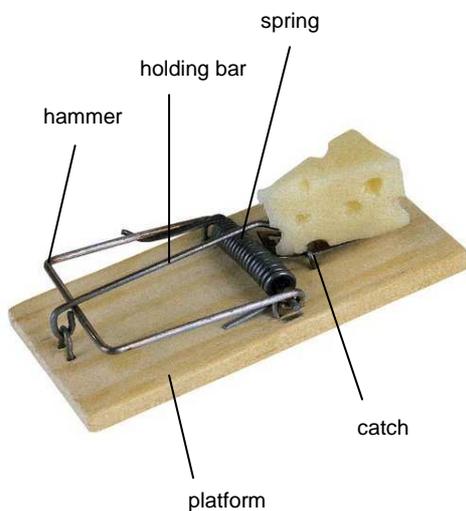
‘To grasp the reality of life as it has been revealed by molecular biology, we must magnify a cell a thousand million times until it is...large enough to cover a great city like London or New York. What we would then see would be an object of unparalleled complexity and adaptive design. If we were to enter [the cell] we would find ourselves in a world of supreme technology and bewildering complexity...In practically every field of fundamental biological research **ever-increasing levels of design and complexity are being revealed at an ever-accelerating rate.**’

(Michael Denton, molecular biologist)

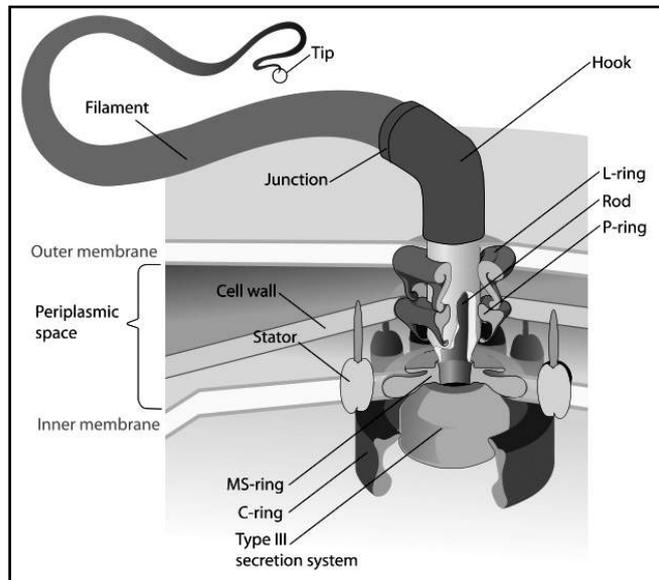
As higher levels and more examples of complexity are revealed it becomes ever more difficult to attribute them to chance. Biochemist Michael J Behe in his book ‘Darwin's Black Box’ compares the proposed Darwinian origin of such complex mechanisms to the

chance that a hedgehog could successfully cross a 1000 lane busy highway. It might have a fighting chance of getting across the first lane. It might be lucky enough to avoid the wheels of the trucks bearing down on it and make it across the second. But you would be foolish to expect it to cross all 1000 lanes. In a similar way while there may be no absolute barrier to a biochemical system being put together gradually ‘the opportunities to go wrong are overwhelming’.

If this wasn’t bad enough there are some systems for which Behe argues that there certainly is a barrier to their being put together gradually. These are ‘irreducibly complex’ systems. A system is irreducibly complex if it is composed of several interacting parts which contribute to the function of the system, where the removal of any one part would cause the system to cease functioning. Consider the mechanical mousetrap consisting of 5 parts: a platform, hammer, spring, catch and holding bar. Remove any one part and it no longer works. In other words you cannot reduce its complexity without destroying its function. For the mousetrap to function all 5 parts must exist and be assembled correctly. It cannot be arrived at by ‘numerous, successive, slight modifications’. According to Behe there are many such systems in Biology (examples include the blood-clotting mechanism and the bacterial flagellum) any one of which should be sufficient for the ‘breakdown’ of Darwin’s theory.



The mousetrap is ‘irreducibly complex’. All five interacting parts must be present for it to function.



The bacterial flagellum is a molecular ‘outboard motor’ which enables bacteria to swim. If, as Behe argues, it is irreducibly complex then it could not have evolved via a Darwinian process.

4) Specified Complexity

‘The works of Shakespeare did not write themselves’
(Dean Taylor, physics teacher)

Behind every literary work is an intelligent author. Behind every computer game is a team of intelligent games designers and programmers. What these media have in common is a type of information called Complex Specified Information (CSI).

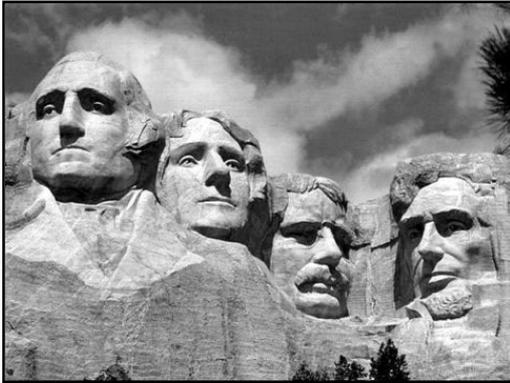
A monkey at a keyboard could type out a string of *random* letters:

FYOEK CKJJER SPWRQLZCHSS

If he drums his fingers repetitively across the keyboard he might produce some *order*:

QWERQWERQWERQWERQWER

But neither of these is an example of CSI. Natural causes can produce random or ordered information. The weather, for example, can erode a rockface in a random fashion and the wind can produce the ordered patterns of sand dunes. But nobody visiting Mount Rushmore for the first time would argue that the presidents' heads had been carved by natural forces. The shapes convey a specific meaning. It is clear that some intelligence lay behind their creation.



It is clear that an intelligent mind lay behind the creation of the presidents heads on Mt. Rushmore. Natural forces can only produce random patterns or simple repeating patterns.

It is sometimes said that if an infinite number of monkeys typed randomly at keyboards for an infinite amount of time then one of them would eventually write the works of Shakespeare. Might it be possible then for random processes to have produced CSI? If so the complexity we see in living things might be attributable to natural processes and not to some outside intelligent agent. It is surprisingly straightforward to find out. First we need to know what is definitely *not* possible.

For a start we know that there could not be an infinite number of monkeys and that they could not have been typing for an infinite amount of time. Based on the physical constraints of the universe the French mathematician Emile Borel proposed that any event as improbable as 1 in 10^{50} (10 followed by 50 zeroes) could never be attributed to chance. This is equivalent to 166 bits of specified information arising by chance, enough to code for 35 letters in the English alphabet. Accordingly if the universe was full of monkeys which had been bashing away at keyboards since the beginning of time one of them might just produce the following:

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD AND T..

But certainly no more than this.

Mathematician Dr. William Dembski has gone a step further than Borel and calculated an absolute upper limit on the amount of specified information that the universe could ever generate by natural processes as equivalent to 500 bits of information. He calls this the Universal Complexity Bound. It is equivalent to 105 letters in the English alphabet. For example:

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD AND THE WORD WAS GOD THE SAME WAS IN THE BEGINNIN..

What does all this mean? Well if we came across some information that would require more than 500 bits of information to code for it – for example, a phrase longer than the one above – then we could confidently rule out any chance origin and confidently assert that an intelligence was behind its creation.

Why does it matter? Because in each cell in your body is a code written on the DNA molecule which contains far more than the Universal Complexity Bound of 500 bits of information. In fact it contains 6,000,000,000 bits of information¹ – enough to fill many volumes.

‘There is enough information capacity in a single human cell to store the Encyclopaedia Britannica, all 30 volumes of it, three or four times over.’

(R. Dawkins)

How did this vast quantity of information get there? Darwinian evolution cannot explain it. The latter relies solely on natural causes to explain the origin of life. Yet Dembski and others have proved that such natural causes are incapable of generating the complex specified information that we find in our DNA or indeed in that of even the ‘simplest’ cell.



The information stored in your DNA would fill all 30 volumes of the Encyclopaedia Britannica 3 or 4 times over. There is far more information than could ever be accounted for by random processes.

The inability of natural causes to generate new information is encapsulated in a universal law called The Law of Conservation of Information which is related to the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics but is arguably more fundamental than any of the laws of physics.

‘Perhaps information should be regarded as (or maybe is) a basic property of the universe, alongside matter and energy.’

(Keith Devlin, *Logic and Information*, Cambridge University Press)

Information can be transmitted - sometimes with losses – but cannot be increased. For example, if you photocopy a page of text the copy could never be higher quality than the original and you would certainly never expect to see an extra line of text appearing. The very best you can hope for is a near identical copy. You cannot get new complex specified information². Every instance of CSI can be traced back to a precursor. The cars in the factory are complex but the factory making them is more complex. To quote Dembski, ‘A pencil-making machine is more complicated than the pencils it makes’ and ‘a clock factory is more complicated than the clocks it produces.’

‘To explain an instance of CSI requires either a direct appeal to an intelligent agent who via a cognitive act originated the CSI in question, or locating an antecedent instance of CSI that contains at least as much CSI as we started with....[T]racing back the causal chains from pencil to pencil-making machine or clock to clock factory all in the end terminate in an intelligence.’

Every single instance of CSI we can think of ultimately leads back to a cognitive act by an intelligent being: the literary author, the computer programmer, the car designer. The conclusion is inescapable. Behind the complex specified information that characterises life there must ultimately have been a cognitive act by an intelligent being.

Summary

We *know* that tornadoes don't build aircraft. We *know* that bananas turn to mush – not the other way round. We *know* that behind every car is a designer, behind every computer game a programmer and behind every book an author. These observations are not only common sense but are based on sound scientific principles. Yet some scientists expect you to leave your common sense and even science sense behind in order to believe that the 'supreme technology and bewildering complexity' of the cell happened by accident and contrary to fundamental statistical laws, thermodynamic laws and information laws. In other words, they expect you to believe the IMPOSSIBLE.

You could be forgiven for thinking that the entire scientific establishment believes in Darwinian evolution. There have always been sceptics but their voices are rarely heard. However, as ever more discoveries are made about the true nature and complexity of life there are ever more dissenters from the Darwin camp. At the time of writing (August 2008) 31,000 scientists from around the globe have signed a 'Scientific Dissent from Darwin' and many more are sure to follow.

'The irony of this whole situation is that the very concept of organic evolution is completely absurd and impossible. It is absolutely astonishing that an idea which is so devoid of any legitimate scientific evidence could have attained a position of such prestige in the name of science.'

Scott M. Huse B.S., M.S., M.R.E., Th.D., and Ph.D

'To insist that life appeared quite by chance and evolved in this fashion, is an unfounded supposition which I believe to be wrong and not in accordance with the facts.'

P.Grasse past President, French Academy of Science

'Evolution [is] a theory universally accepted not because it can be proven by logically coherent evidence to be true, but because the only alternative, special creation, is clearly incredible.'

Prof D.M. Watson.

'I think...that we must...admit that the only acceptable explanation is *creation*. I know that this is anathema to physicists as it is to me but we must not reject a theory that we do not like if the experimental evidence supports it.'

H.S.Lipson, FRS (Prof. of Physics University of Manchester)

1. At the time of writing only 5% of the genome is understood. Some scientists refer to the remaining 95% as 'junk DNA' but more functions are being discovered for this remainder all the time. 5% of the 6 billion bits of information is still 300 million bits and well above the 500 bits necessary to eliminate natural causes as the originator of the information.
2. New Complex Specified Information could possibly arise by natural causes but only up to the Universal Complexity Bound of 500 new bits of information. Woefully short of the 120,000 bits necessary for even the 'simplest' cell..