

Does God Exist?

Design & Creation (Week 2)

Introduction

- Why do you believe in God?
- Faith is rooted in observable reality (Hebrews 11:1)
- Guiding Question: If the universe cannot create itself, what is the most reasonable explanation?

C. S. Lewis: “Humans recognize beauty, morality, awe, purpose - all signals pointing beyond nature.”

Biblical Claim

- Genesis 1:1 - God created all things
- Psalm 19:1-4 - Creation declares God's glory
- Romans 1:20 - God's attributes clearly seen in nature

Scripture affirms creation points to a Creator

Argument from Design

- Design implies a Designer (Teleological Argument)
- Ancient roots: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
- Aquinas' 'Five Ways'; Paley's watchmaker analogy

Complexity, purpose, information indicate
intelligence

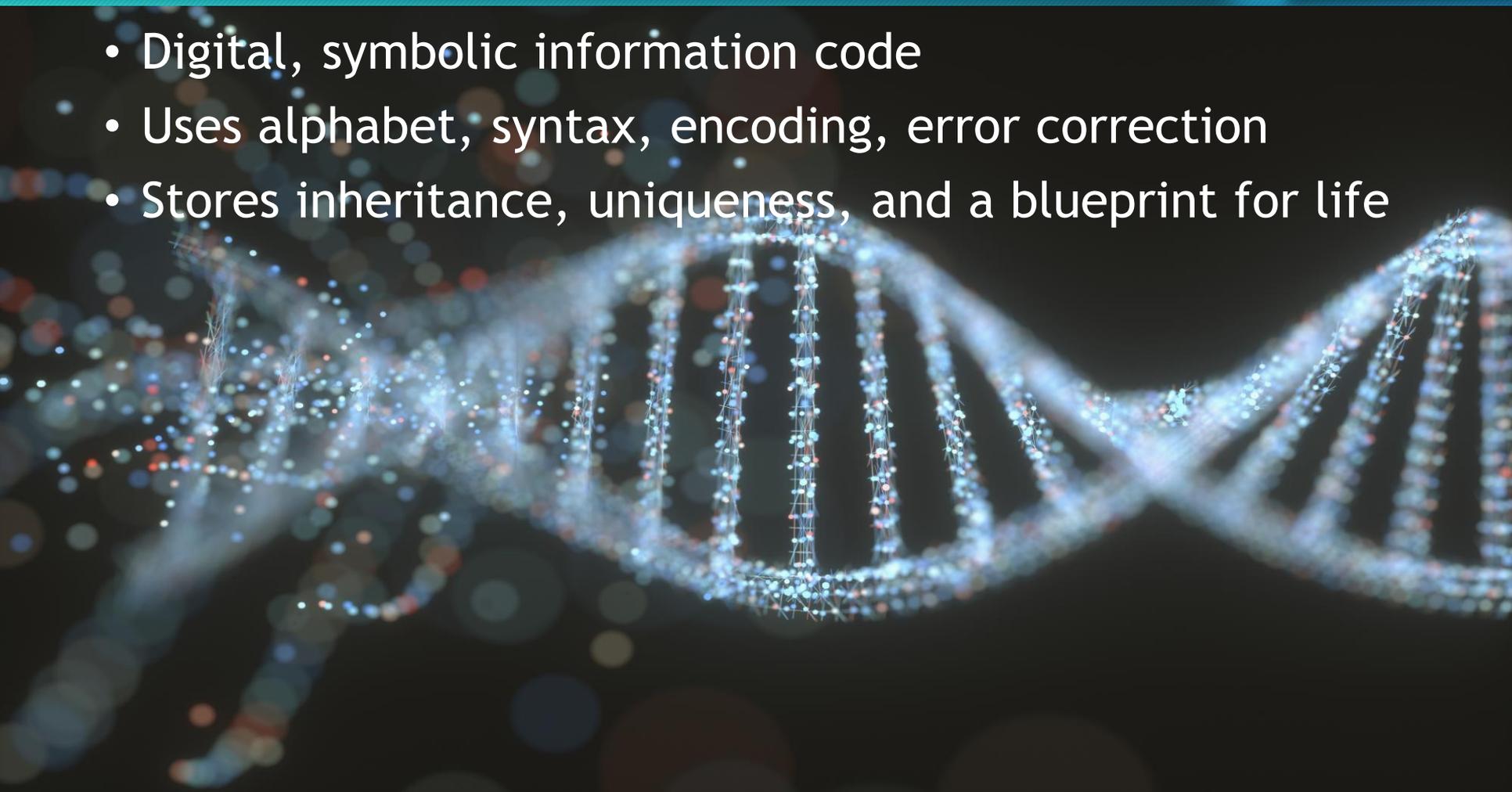
Human Eye: Example of Design

- ~130 million photoreceptors; layered network
- Retina performs ~10 billion operations/sec
- Integrated optical + neural systems
- Appears irreducibly complex



DNA: Evidence of a Mind

- Digital, symbolic information code
- Uses alphabet, syntax, encoding, error correction
- Stores inheritance, uniqueness, and a blueprint for life



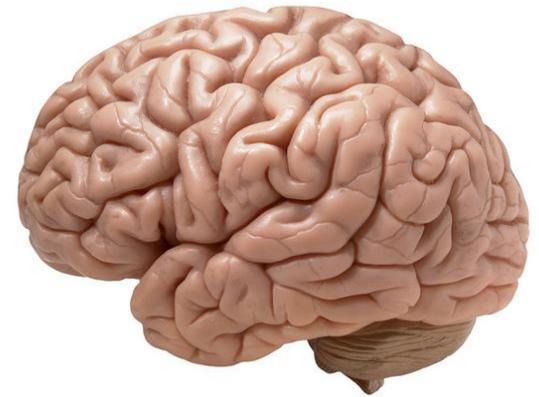
DNA: Amazing Facts

- 1 gram of DNA holds ~215 petabytes
 - 43-53 million HD movies (enough to store every movie ever made in history, tens of thousands of times over.)
 - 43-70 billion MP3 songs (more songs than have ever been recorded by humanity.)
 - The entire Library of Congress has about 40 million books (about 20 TB). One gram of DNA - over 11,000 times that size.

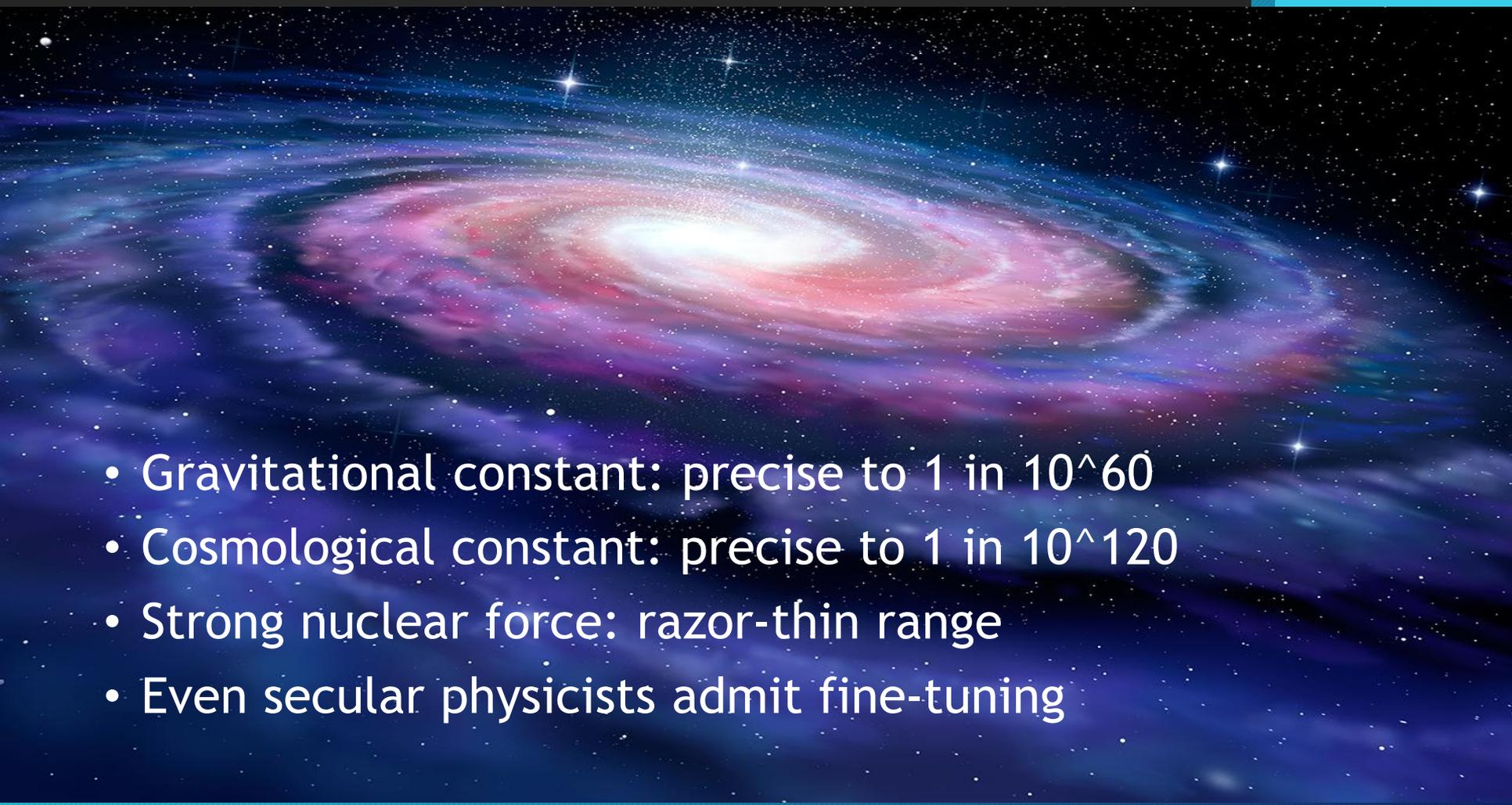
And your body has roughly 160 grams of DNA - that's roughly 160 entire Internets' worth of data!

Human Mind: Beyond Survival

- Rationality, morality, self-awareness
- Creativity, art, language
- Traits exceed evolutionary necessity
- Reflect characteristics of a rational Creator



Fine-Tuning of the Universe

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- Gravitational constant: precise to 1 in 10^{60}
 - Cosmological constant: precise to 1 in 10^{120}
 - Strong nuclear force: razor-thin range
 - Even secular physicists admit fine-tuning

Universe Had a Beginning

- Big Bang aligns with Genesis 1:1
- Whatever begins to exist has a cause
- Cause must be immaterial, timeless, powerful, intentional



Responding to Objections

- Science disproves God
 - Science describes mechanisms, not origins
- Design is just an illusion
 - Wherever we find complex, specified information, we infer design. This is no exception.
- Who created God?
 - God is uncreated - eternal (Psalm 90:2)
- The universe created itself / Naturalism
 - Self-creation is logically impossible
 - “If human thoughts are the result of blind, mindless chemical reactions, why should we trust them?” - *CS Lewis*

Application

- Creation builds confidence and worship
- God created life with purpose and intention
- Assignment: Read Acts 17:16-34

“If God created the universe, then life has intrinsic meaning and you were made on purpose.” -*Timothy Keller*

Next week...

The reliability of the Bible

Discussion

- What part of nature shows God most clearly?
- Which argument resonated most?
- How could you explain design or fine-tuning to a non-believer?
- What objection about God's existence do you hear most often?
- How does knowing the universe had a beginning shape your view of God?