

FOR EVERY SCIENCE THERE IS A TIME SCALE

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Originally posted 3/25/10, sl rev 10/20/10

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One of the most dramatic features of twentieth century science is how vastly expanded our scientific time scales became.

Starting with Max Planck's proposal on the eve of the new century of a minimum time possible (later known as the Planck time), to the realization mid century that the universe might be upwards of ten billion years old, scientific time was stretched way beyond what we can conceive.

It may take us a while to catch up in our thinking.

Meanwhile, a careful look at any field of science will reveal specific kinds of time scales associated with each one.

Thus, it can be said that for every science there is a time scale (or set of time scales) that researchers in that field have found as most useful for their specific field.

Especially important for how we think about time as a whole, however, is the time scale chosen for cosmology.

Working in close conjunction with theoretical physics, cosmology is now primarily responsible for our "big picture" sense of time.

Since Big Bang theory has become a major focus of both sciences, the time scale that works best for them is one that shows time beginning at the Big Bang itself—in the "Planckian Epoch"—and proceeding, ever more slowly as the universe has expanded, to the present.

This is also the kind of time scale currently favored by those devoted to science education for the public—from Carl Sagan's "Cosmos" series (globally the single most widely watched PBS series ever), to massive displays at the Museum of Natural History's Rose Center in Manhattan, to similar educational field trip destinations around the world.

This timeline is generally presented as "THE TIMELINE OF THE COSMOS"—without any explanation of how this is just one particular way of presenting time—one that works especially well for cosmology.

However, it seems no one has noticed that this specific time scale *does not work well for humans in general*. Why?

Look carefully at these scales and you'll find—as dramatized by Sagan in his series via "The Cosmic Calendar"—that “all of human history has taken place in just this last tiny little tiny bit of time.”

At the Rose Center—the “largest glass wall building in the world”—after walking down the 360 foot ramp of the Heilbrun Cosmic pathway we find, at the end: “the duration of recorded human history is here portrayed as the thickness of a human hair.”

What about me? What about my life time? “Not even the tiniest bit of nothing compared to all the vast and wondrous reaches of time since the Big Bang, my child.”

Translated message: “you, my child, are of virtually no significance.” Thus sayeth the Great Ones of Science.

How wrong is that!? It doesn't have to be this way!

We can simply turn that time scale around 180 degrees, as it were.

By putting the Planck time on the inside of “now”—and not just “at the start of it all”—and using a “backwards looking” logarithmic scale, *dramatic* things happen!

We get a cosmological time scale for humans—I call it “Anthropic”—meaning specifically “for humans.” (See details elsewhere on this website)

It has three broad domains that correspond beautifully to outer experience, experience of the body/mind, and deep inner experiences of intuition and meditation.

This is the time scale that I suggest is best suited for developing a robust science of subtle energies, a real science of the mind, and a science of consciousness, even “a science of non-duality.”

It is not “in competition” with existing time lines—every science is free to choose a time line that works best for its specific field of interest.

Cosmologists can keep their time line, geologists theirs, biologists theirs, etc... no problem.

But now we have a way of at least beginning to think scientifically about the subjective and the depth dimensions of human experience that are otherwise pretty much simply “not on the map” if we confine ourselves to the one single timeline chosen by the one field of cosmology.

Pretty simple, really