

PARALLEL UNIVERSES AND THE DIVINE BEING AS A STATISTICAL POSSIBILITY

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Abstract. Recent advances in astrophysics have led to an increasing credibility of the infinite space hypothesis. But, as cosmologists argue, in infinite space even the most unlikely events must take place somewhere. On the other hand, since our „universe” (i.e., the observable universe or „Hubble volume”) is a finite one, it follows that this is only one of the many parallel universes which co-exist as parts of a larger „multiverse”. This paper is an attempt to identify some possible consequences on the philosophical interpretation of the design argument, once accepted the multiverse hypothesis.

Keywords: Universe, Multiverse, Argument from design, Fine tuning, Anthropic principle/Univers, Multivers, Argumentul proiectului divin, Reglajul fin, Principiul antropic

1. Introduction

The word „universe” seems to have a very strange peculiarity: although it traditionally means all that exists, the physical world seems to enlarge at the same rate with our increasing efforts to scientifically investigating it.² Stimulated mainly by recent developments in cosmology and particle physics, and also by the controversial many-worlds interpretation of quantum theory, astrophysicists gather day by day new pieces of evidence, which augments the credibility of the infinite space hypothesis. As soon as it is taken seriously, this proposal raises serious conceptual questions, so it proves to be one of those research themes capable to initiate major changes in our conceptions about the science itself and, simultaneously, to reignite old disputes in natural theology. Cosmologists like to emphasize that in an infinite space even the most unlikely events must take place somewhere, so that each of us can have multiple copies somewhere in a distant world, or, why not, it could exist many distant worlds in which the proofs of a divine design could be by far more manifest than in ours.³ But *where* exactly

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² „Although the word ‘universe’ literally means all that exists, the longer we have studied the world, the larger it appears to have become. /.../ the usage of this term has changed as we have progressed from the geocentric to heliocentric to galactocentric to cosmocentric view” (Carr & Ellis).

³ For a comprehensive investigation of the concept of infinity, see the book of Graham Oppy *Philosophical Perspectives on Infinity* (2006). According to him, it is important to notice that „If concepts of infinity could have certain kinds of application outside the realm of logic and