Where do atoms come from ?



What are humans made of?



The average human body contains enough: sulphur to kill all fleas on an average dog, carbon to make 900 pencils, potassium to fire a toy cannon, fat to make 7 bars of soap, phosphorus to make 2,200 match heads, water to fill a ten-gallon tank, and enough iron to make a 3 inch nail. oxygen 43 kg carbon 16 kg hydrogen 7 kg calcium 1.0 k phosphorus 780 a ium 140 a ulfur 140 g odium 100 a chlorine 95 a magnesium 19 g iron 4.2 g fluorine 2.6 g zinc 2.3 a silicon 1.0 c rubidium 0.68 g strontium 0.32 c promine 0.26 a ead 0.12 a copper 72 mc aluminum 60 ma cadmium 50 ma cerium 40 mg parium 22 mg iodine 20 ma tin 20 mg titanium 20 ma boron 18 ma nickel 15 mg elenium 15 mg chromium 14 mg manganese 12 mg arsenic 7 mg lithium 7 mg cesium 6 ma mercury 6 mc germanium 5 mg molybdenum 5 mg cobalt 3 mc antimony 2 mg silver 2 ma niobium 1.5 ma zirconium 1 ma anthanium 0.8 mg gallium 0.7 mg tellurium 0.7 ma ttrium 0.6 ma indium 0.4 ma

Two fabulous facts about the elements

• The lightest elements were forged just a few minutes after the Big Bang

 Heavier elements are formed inside stars, and scattered throughout the Universe by supernovae

• The Universe is 7.2 million, billion minutes old !



My lifetime ...





Extinction of the dinosaurs ... (65 million yrs)













The expanding Universe



The expanding Universe





The Universe is a time machine



Fun fact: Light travels at 300,000 km/s

The Universe is a time machine

http://hubblesite.org/newscenter/archive/

The Cosmic Microwave Background





The Cosmic Microwave Background

Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe

Now running the clock forwards ...



http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/resources/animconcepts.html





FORMATION OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM 8,700,000,000 years AFTER BIG BANG

The particle physicist's view ...



What makes up an atom?



What happens if I heat up these atoms?

• They lose all their electrons

• They start fusing together!



Nuclear fusion





Why does fusion need such heat?



Big Bang Nucleosynthesis





Big Bang Nucleosynthesis





Searching for the primordial gas clouds





Searching for the primordial gas clouds



Why can't we form carbon?



Big Bang Nucleosynthesis

Forms the light elements (helium, deuterium, lithium)

• We can measure their abundances and confirm the theory

Where do the other elements come from?



Where do the other elements come from?



Sir Fred Hoyle







Formation of carbon



Resonance







Formation of carbon



• A successful prediction of the anthropic principle!

The build up of elements inside stars



Supernova explosions

Supernova explosions





Planet formation



The early Universe was hot and dense ...



The light elements formed through nuclear fusion reactions in the first few minutes ...



The heavier elements formed inside stars



Thank you for coming !

