

## A1: GLOSSARY OF SCIENTIFIC TERMS

*The following includes basic explanations of scientific concepts mentioned or alluded to in this story. Most of these reflect the accepted wisdom. Several relate to newer models and recent research, some of which do not accord with traditional approaches. (These will be distinguished below, with sources provided.)*

*Terms that appear in **bold** represent other entries in this Glossary.*

**0.15c:** “Zero point one five C.” This represents 15% of (or 0.15 times) the **speed of light** (represented by the letter ‘c’). That is a speed of about 45,000 km per second, a speed at which you could circle the Earth at the equator in less than a second.

**0.9988c:** “Zero point ninety nine eighty eight C.” This represents 99.88% of (or 0.9988 times) the **speed of light** (c). That is a speed of almost 300,000 km per second, a speed at which you could get to the Moon in just over a second.

**0-G:** (*see Zero-G*)

**1-G:** A gravitational force (or a force due to acceleration) that is equal to the strength of Earth’s **gravity** (represented by the letter ‘G’).<sup>2</sup> The acceleration due to gravity on Earth is 9.8 meters per square second ( $m/s^2$ ), so someone will experience a 1-G force when they are on Earth or when they are in a rocket that is burning fuel to accelerate at  $9.8 m/s^2$ . 1-G propulsion occurs when a spacecraft accelerates constantly at  $9.8 m/s^2$  for the first half of the journey (which requires a constant engine burn), during which its velocity is continually increasing. At the half-way point, the craft cuts its engines and flips 180° to place its rear thrusters in the direction of travel. It then burns its engines again with the same thrust as before in order to decelerate ( $-9.8$

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<sup>2</sup> A recent theory proposing both an explanation of and an actual mechanism for gravity is described below. (*see Gravity*)

$m/s^2$ ) for the second half of the journey (which also requires a constant engine burn), during which its velocity is continually decreasing. That way, travelers experience the comfort of 1-G for the entire journey, except for the weightlessness (*see* **Zero-G**) they will experience during the half-way flip. 1-G propulsion is obviously an extremely fuel-intensive prospect and will only be feasible when abundant energy (or fuel capacity) is available for propulsion.

**7-G:** A force seven times stronger than Earth's **gravity** acts upon a body. This is either because the body is on a planet with a **mass** seven times larger than Earth, or because it is accelerating at  $68.6 m/s^2$ , or because it is turning sharply (which is also an acceleration) at high speed — an **inertial** effect that fighter pilots often experience. Such high G-forces pose a significant danger to pilots of loss of consciousness, since blood is pushed to one side of the body preferentially, inhibiting proper circulation.

**Alpha Centauri:** The nearest star system to our solar system, and part of the **constellation** Centaurus. It is a three-star system containing two bright stars called Alpha Centauri and Beta Centauri that orbit one another — a binary star — and a third dimmer **red dwarf** star called **Proxima Centauri**. Proxima Centauri is the nearest of the three stars to us, at a distance of just under 4.25 **light years**. Several **exoplanets** have been discovered **orbiting** it. The innermost one, Proxima b, is in the star's **habitable zone**.

**Angular momentum:** Normal (linear) momentum is a term that refers to a combination of the **mass** and velocity of an object.<sup>3</sup> The larger the momentum, the more **inertia** the body possesses, and the more strongly it will resist a change in its speed or direction of motion. Angular momentum is the analogy of this

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<sup>3</sup> The equation for momentum ( $p$ ) is  $\mathbf{p}=m\mathbf{v}$ , where  $m$  is the object's mass and  $\mathbf{v}$  is its velocity.

for a body that is rotating or moving in a circular path.<sup>4</sup> Its inertia will similarly cause it to maintain that rotation and resist a change. A gyroscope is a classic example of this principle. Like **energy** and linear momentum, angular momentum must be conserved. This is one of the reasons that **nuclear reactions** eject (or absorb) **antimatter** particles. Since the normal matter particles produced in the reaction may not possess the same quantum **spin** (collectively) as the original particle, another particle must emerge with a spin that offsets the difference. This ensures that the overall angular momentum will be the same after the reaction as it was before. For a **quantum** system that has angular momentum, its energy can be expressed as a function of its angular momentum.<sup>5</sup>

**Antimatter** (or **anti-particles**): A particle of matter has a corresponding antimatter particle, or antiparticle, which has the same **mass** but opposite electric **charge**. The positively charged **proton**'s anti-particle is the anti-proton, and it has the same mass as the proton but a negative charge. The anti-particle of the **electron** is the **positron**, which has positive charge. While **neutrons** and **neutrinos** are electrically neutral, they still have anti-particles, called the anti-neutron and the anti-neutrino. In the case of the neutron, while it has no overall charge, it is comprised of (according to the standard model) quarks that have charge or (according to the **rotating photon model** of matter<sup>6</sup>) photon **harmonic** resonances that express either positive or negative **electric fields**. In the corresponding antiparticles, these resonances rotate in the opposite direction,

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<sup>4</sup> The equation for angular momentum ( $L$ ) is  $L=I\omega$ , where  $I$  is the object's moment of **inertia** and  $\omega$  is its angular velocity.

<sup>5</sup> According to the equation  $E=\hbar\omega$ .

<sup>6</sup> As proposed in the **Williamson-van der Mark** model of the electron, **sub-quantum mechanics**, as well as in the **Robinson Models** of Nuclear Binding and Quantum **Gravity**, referenced below.

yielding the opposite charge in charged particles but the same overall neutrality in neutral particles. According to this model, antimatter is matter that is composed of particles whose internal (**photon**) structure has opposite quantum ‘**spin-handedness**’ (**chirality**<sup>7</sup>), and therefore, opposite electric charge. When a particle and its anti-particle meet, they unlock each other’s internal spin **angular momenta**, converting their rotating photons to linear photons in a **high-energy** release called a matter-antimatter annihilation.<sup>8</sup> One of the famous problems in physics is explaining why the observable universe is filled almost entirely with normal matter but only a very small amount of antimatter. According to the standard model, the universe should contain them in equal proportions, and this remains a mystery known as the problem of baryonic asymmetry. According to observation, though, antimatter is only encountered in association with nuclear transmutation reactions. According to the rotating photon model of matter, antimatter *only* arises as a result of a **nuclear reaction** because that is the role it plays. Antimatter particles are the photon resonances that form (and are consumed) as part of nuclear reactions, specifically in order to conserve photon angular momentum (as well as other **quantum** numbers) through that reaction. These antimatter particles can then be consumed in other nuclear reactions or in annihilation reactions with matter particles. They will therefore not have long-term survivability in a universe made of regular matter, and their lack of (baryonic) symmetry is to be expected.

**Atmosphere:** The gases that surround a planet, held to it by **gravity**. This causes atmospheres to be denser nearer the surface, where air **pressure** will be greatest, and thinner at higher altitude (like on Mount Everest), where air pressure will be

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<sup>7</sup> This refers to the orientation of a particle’s **spin**, and it is designated as left-handed or right-handed. (*see* **Chirality**)

<sup>8</sup> See the image in the ‘NOTE’ at the beginning of the book, which represents this concept according to the **rotating photon model**.

lower. The presence of a **magnetic field** helps to prevent a planet's atmosphere from being lost into space (*see magnetosphere*). The gases in the atmosphere protect the organisms on the surface by absorbing dangerous incoming radiation before it can reach the surface. Earth's atmosphere is made up of 78% nitrogen gas (N<sub>2</sub>), 21% oxygen gas (O<sub>2</sub>), and the remaining 1% contains a mixture of other gases including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and water vapor (H<sub>2</sub>O). The densest part of Earth's atmosphere, in which just about all weather occurs, is called the troposphere, and it stretches from the ground up to an altitude of about 12km. In simple terms, the outermost part of the atmosphere reaches out to about 100km, but technically, it actually extends much further out and has no clear or sharp boundary. Beyond 100km, though, its density is extremely low.

**Atmospheric pressure:** (*See Pressure*)

**Atom:** The smallest particle of a pure **element**. When two or more atoms are bonded together it is called a **molecule**. When atoms or **ions** (charged atoms) bond in an extended network, they form a crystal. All solids, liquids, and gases are made of atoms, ions, or molecules. An atom contains a nucleus, a tiny positively **charged** central region containing **protons** and **neutrons**, which contains just about all of the **mass** of the atom. This is surrounded by an **electron** cloud, a region of negative charge that fills the space around the nucleus. The positively charged **electric field** of the nucleus is thus cancelled by the negatively charge field of the electron cloud around it. The charges are therefore balanced and their electric field **energy** is neutralized, which stabilizes the atom by putting it into a lower energy state. Protons, neutrons, and electrons are known as subatomic particles.

**Atomic number:** The number of **protons** in an **atom's** nucleus. This determines the atom's **element**, as well as its position on the **periodic table**. The first element on the periodic table, hydrogen, has 1 proton. The second element, helium, has 2 protons, and so on.

**Aurora:** A portion of the **atmosphere** above the polar region of a planet glows with a dancing light display. It is caused when energetic particles arriving at the planet strike **molecules** in the atmosphere, causing them to luminesce. It occurs above the polar regions because the incoming **charged** particles spiral along the planet's **magnetic field** lines, and these are near-vertical at the poles. This directs the charged particles arriving near the poles downwards and into the atmosphere. The effect is very similar to a glow discharge tube, which also involves electric current (a flow of charges) discharging through a low density gas.

**Ayahuasca:** An ancient South American shamanistic brewed tea with hallucinogenic effects. It is used to enter an altered state of consciousness for meditation, introspection, or healing.

**Bends:** (*see Decompression sickness*)

**Big Bang:** According to the standard model of cosmology, the universe began in an intense explosion of **energy** that arose from a tiny point — a singularity. That energy then cooled as it expanded, coalescing into subatomic particles, which combined to form **atoms**, which clustered together under the force of **gravity** to form stars and planets, and thus, the cosmos as we know it today. Evidence supporting this idea is taken from the fact that starlight is **redshifted**, which is interpreted to mean a **Doppler** shift is occurring, which would mean that almost all of the stars and galaxies in the universe are moving apart from one another. When this concept is projected backwards in **time**, it eventually reaches a situation where all matter in the universe is concentrated at a tiny point. Additional support is taken from the existence of a cosmic microwave background radiation, a pervasive 'static' of low-energy **photons** that appears to fill the universe. This is believed to be the cooled, remnant energy from that initial explosion, now at a frigid **temperature** of 2.7K (or –270.5°C or –454.8°F). However, many of the laws of physics cease to apply in a 'Big Bang.' Moreover, there are other

explanations for both **redshift** and the microwave background<sup>9,10</sup> that do not require a ‘Big-Bang,’ and observations from the James Webb Space Telescope have provided even more challenges. As such, many, this author included, believe it is time to set the Big Bang theory aside.

**Birkeland current:** An electric current flow through a **plasma**, such as in Earth’s ionosphere. It is also known as a field-aligned current since the flow of **ions** tends to follow (and spiral around) the **magnetic field** lines of the planet. Birkeland currents have also been observed in space plasmas. They are named after the Norwegian physicist, Kristian Birkeland, who explained the **aurora borealis** phenomenon.

**Blueshift:** When a light source is approaching, either because we are moving towards it or it is moving towards us, then its light waves appear squashed or contracted. This gives the appearance of a shorter **wavelength** and therefore a higher **frequency** for the waves. When this involves visible light waves, it means the color of the light is shifted towards the blue (higher frequency) end of the rainbow, hence the name.

**Brunton pocket transit:** Also known as a Brunton compass. It is a specialized compass used in several fields, but in geology, it is used to take accurate measurements of ‘strike and dip,’ the angle and direction of rock formations.

**Cambrian period:** A geological period on Earth from about 539 million years ago to about 485 million years ago. It constitutes

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<sup>9</sup> See Vivian N. E. Robinson, *How to Build a Universe: Beyond the standard models*, ETP Semra (2021), Chapter 11, ISBN-13: 978-0645412512

See also Eric J. Lerner, *The Big Bang Never Happened*, Vintage Books (1992), ISBN 13: 9780679740490

<sup>10</sup> See <https://quicycle.com/breakthroughs/> for more detail.

the first part of the **Paleozoic era**, and is characterized by the rise of multicellular organisms.

**Charge:** A particle manifests an electric charge if there is an imbalance between the positive and negative **electric field** that it is projecting into the space around it. According to the **Williamson-van der Mark model**<sup>11</sup> of the **electron**, its substructure — the toroidal shape traced by the **photon** that makes up the electron — keeps the negative polarity of the photon's electric field pointing outwards at all times. That results in its monopole negative charge. In the case of the **proton** or **positron**, the positive polarity of the inner photon's electric field is pointing outwards. That results in its monopole positive charge. When a (circularly-polarized) photon of light is traveling in a straight line, it has no charge because its electric field is spiraling around its axis of travel, once per wavelength, which averages the overall (lateral) charge to zero.

**Chemosynthesis:** In conditions where **photosynthesis** is not possible or feasible — for example at a seismic vent along the ocean floor (where sunlight does not reach) — plants can produce their food **energy** using a different chemical process that does not involve sunlight. They mine the heat energy and hydrogen sulfide gas ( $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ ) from the vent and use it to convert dissolved carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) and oxygen ( $\text{O}_2$ ) gas dissolved in the water ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) into sugar molecules ( $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$ ).

**Chirality:** The orientation of a particle's **spin** is designated as left-handed or right-handed because it is directly analogous to the difference between our perspective of our right hand versus our left hand. Consider a left hand curled into a fist but with the thumb extended in a 'thumbs-up' gesture. A left-handed chirality means, if the **magnetic** north pole of the particle is pointing in the direction of the left thumb, the particle is

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<sup>11</sup> John G. Williamson, "A New Linear Theory Of Light And Matter," *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*. 1251. 012050 (2019). See also [www.Quicycle.com](http://www.Quicycle.com)



rotating or circulating in the direction of the curled up fingers. Looking down onto the north pole thumb, that would look like a clockwise circulation. A counter-clockwise rotation would therefore indicate a right-handed chirality, which is what a left-handed chirality looks like from the other side.

**Constellation:** A pattern of stars in the night sky, as viewed from Earth. There are dozens of these shapes. Most were named by ancient civilizations according to their myths and legends, including the twelve signs of the Zodiac, and they were used both for navigation and to represent portions of the calendar. The stars in a particular constellation need not be close to one another at all. It is only our vantage point from Earth that groups them together. By way of example, one of the stars in the constellation Centaurus is **Alpha Centauri**, 4.3 **light years** from Earth. Another star in the same constellation, Theta Centauri, is almost 59 light years from Earth. Another, Gamma Centauri, is 130 light years away, and another, R Centauri, is over 1,200 light years away. As is true of most constellations there are many stars that are a lot closer to Alpha Centauri than the other stars in its constellation. From a different vantage point in our galaxy, the constellations that are visible will not only look different to those seen from Earth, they will be made up of completely different combinations of stars.

**Cooksonia:** A plant from the **Silurian** Period, now extinct on Earth. They were the first plants with stems and vascular tissue.

**Corona:** The outer **atmosphere** of a star, which also tends to be its hottest region. By way of example, at the visible surface (photosphere) of our Sun, the **temperature** is about 5,777 **Kelvin** (5,504°C or 9,939°F). Above that surface, the first layer of the atmosphere, the chromosphere, reaches temperatures of up to 20,000K. Outside of that, in the corona, temperatures range from 1,000,000K up to an extraordinary 20,000,000K. The precise reasons for this are still a matter of debate.

**Cosmic rays:** These are not really ‘rays’ but atomic particles, usually with a positive **charge**. They are emitted, for example, when stars explode in **supernovae**, and they travel at very high speed and carry high **energy**, making them dangerous. About 90% of them are hydrogen **ions** (i.e. **protons**), about 9% are helium ions (alpha particles), and the remaining 1% are ions of various other **elements**. Earth’s **magnetosphere** protects us from many of them by deflecting them around the planet, but some do penetrate into the **atmosphere** where they can affect climate by increasing atmospheric charge, which promotes cloud nucleation<sup>12</sup>. In space, cosmic rays pose a danger to both living organisms and equipment.

**Decompression sickness (DCS):** When gas **molecules** come into contact with the surface of a liquid, some of them dissolve into the liquid as they collide with it. The higher the gas **pressure**, the more frequent the collisions and the more gas will dissolve. If pressure is then suddenly decreased, the liquid is no longer forced to hold as much gas, and excess gas now bubbles out of solution. This depressurizing can happen when a bottle of carbonated beverage is opened, when a diver swims back towards the water’s surface, or when an astronaut is exposed to a very low pressure (or vacuum) environment. In addition, a rapid decrease in pressure causes gas volumes to expand. If the lungs are full of air and the breath is held, this expansion risks rupturing the alveoli (air sacs) in the lungs, which would introduce air into body tissues and blood vessels. Whether from a rupture or from gas bubbling out of solution, air bubbles in the bloodstream can pose very serious health risks. They can block blood vessels, causing a host of symptoms ranging from joint pain to stroke, paralysis, and death. Decompression sickness is usually treated by returning the patient to the higher pressure (in a decompression chamber) in order to redissolve the

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<sup>12</sup> Svensmark, H., Enghoff, M.B., Shaviv, N.J. *et al.* “Increased ionization supports growth of aerosols into cloud condensation nuclei.” *Nat Commun* **8**, 2199 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-017-02082-2>

gas bubbles in their system. They are then brought back to normal pressure gradually enough to avoid the formation of gas bubbles.

**DNA:** DNA stands for *deoxyribonucleic acid*. It is a very long **molecule** in the shape of a double helix, a (polymer) chain made up of many individual building-block molecules called nucleotides.<sup>13</sup> There are four different nucleotides present in DNA, known by the first letter of their molecular names — Adenine (A), Thymine (T), Guanine (G), and Cytosine (C). Our genetic information is carried in the order of these nucleotides in the double helix. In most living organisms, DNA is stored inside the nucleus of each cell. The DNA code determines not only the structure but the function of living organisms. It determines, for example, the types of **proteins** that the cell will manufacture, as well as where and how they will be used in the body. **Epigenetics** is the study of how environmental factors can influence the way that the genetic code is expressed. According to the theory of evolution, the DNA of all species on Earth should be able to trace its heritage back to the same original code. Humans have been experimenting with genetic manipulation, through cross-breeding, for as long as we have been an agricultural species. Technologies that allow us to manipulate and wield the power of DNA continue to evolve, promising ever-increasing opportunities for us to cure disease and direct the course of our own biological evolution. Examples of these technologies

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<sup>13</sup> See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Hk9jct2ozY> for a beautiful animation of the activity of DNA.

include the Nobel Prize-winning CRISPR technology and the invention of synthetic nucleotides and unnatural base pairs<sup>14,15</sup>.

**Doppler effect:** The Doppler effect occurs when a wave source is either getting further away — because we are moving away from it or it is moving away from us, or getting closer — because we are moving towards it, or it is moving towards us. When this occurs with sound waves, for example a passing ambulance or police siren, the pitch (or **frequency**) of the waves appears to increase as it approaches and appears to decrease as it moves away. This is a perceived effect due to the relative motion of the source and the observer. The siren is not actually changing its pitch. When it occurs with light waves, the waves are redshifted as the source moves away from the observer and blueshifted as the source approaches the observer (*see Redshift and Blueshift*). This change in color is analogous to the change in pitch for sound waves, since it results from an apparent stretching or contraction of the **wavelength**.

**E=mc<sup>2</sup>:** This is Einstein's famous formula that relates **energy** ( $E$ ) to **mass** ( $m$ ), using the square of the **speed of light** ( $c^2$ ) as the ratio (or conversion factor) between them. Radiant energy and matter are really two forms of the same **root-energy** 'stuff.' If we want to know how much pure energy we get if we convert matter into radiant energy, we multiply its mass by the speed of light squared, which is a very large number ( $9 \times 10^{16}$ ). It also reflects the fact that, according to both the **Williamson-van der Mark Model** and the **Robinson Model**, particles that have mass, such as **electrons**, are really **photons** of light that are traveling in a circle (or knot) rather than in a straight line. Such concentrated,

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<sup>14</sup> Yorke Zhang, et.al., "A semisynthetic organism engineered for the stable expansion of the genetic alphabet," PNAS February 7, 2017 114 (6) 1317-1322.

<sup>15</sup> Hirao I, Kimoto M., "Unnatural base pair systems toward the expansion of the genetic alphabet in the central dogma," *Proc Jpn Acad Ser B Phys Biol Sci.* 2012;88(7):345-367.

self-sustaining photon **resonance** structures are the essence of matter, which is the *reason* for the interchangeability between matter and energy.

**Ecliptic:** The disc shape or ‘equatorial plane’ in which planets and asteroids **orbit** around their star, or in which rings orbit around a planet. The ecliptic plane lies perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the system. In our solar system, while the planets and most asteroids orbit in the plane of the ecliptic, this rotating disc is not necessarily thin. The asteroid belt is actually as thick as the distance from the Earth to the Sun (1 AU, about 150 million km). In most **galaxies**, the central region of stars also tends to bulge out above and below the ecliptic.

**Electric charge:** (*see charge*)

**Electric field:** One of the two fields expressed in **electromagnetic radiation** (i.e. **photons**). (The other is **magnetic field**.) It is the electric field of the rotating photon within a charged particle (like an **electron**) that generates its electric **charge**, specifically due to its double-loop geometry, which keeps one polarity of the electric field pointing outwards at all times. The electric field at a point can be thought of as a description of how a test charge, placed at that point, would respond — a (bi-)vector field. It will either be attracted or repelled, based upon its charge, as well as based upon its distance from the other charges. Electric field is additive, and the field at a point will always be the (vector) sum of all fields, from all sources, passing through that point. We call one polarity of the electric field ‘positive’ and the opposite polarity ‘negative.’ According to the **Rotating Photon Model** of matter, in subatomic particles, negative charge results from particles with a left-handed **chirality** with respect to their north magnetic pole, and positive charge from a right-handed chirality.

**Electric permittivity** ( $\epsilon_0$ ): **Electromagnetic** energy does not travel through **spacetime** at an infinite speed. The **speed of light** is

limited by the very nature of spacetime, whatever it is. By analogy, electric permittivity might be thought of as how well spacetime can store electric potential, or how ‘transparent’ it is to the passage of **electric fields** or electromagnetic **photons**. (See **spacetime** for more detail.)

**Electromagnetic radiation** (or light): A wave-like energy distortion traveling through spacetime, manifesting as moving fluctuations in electric and **magnetic fields**. Electromagnetic radiation is the scientific term for light waves, whether they are in the visible part of the spectrum (like the colors of the rainbow) or the invisible part of the spectrum (for example radio waves or gamma rays). Light waves store part of their **energy** in **electric field** and part of it in **magnetic field**, hence the name. Light radiation travels in individual packets (or **quanta**) of energy called **photons**. In a typical circularly-polarized photon, the electric and magnetic fields spiral around the axis of travel, 90 degrees apart (or out of phase with one another). Since an electric field incites a forward motion, like velocity ( $dz/dt$ ), and magnetic field incites a twist ( $dx/dy$ ) (see **spacetime**), the combination of the two should yield a combined electromagnetic field that corkscrews as it moves forward. Electromagnetic waves can only travel at the **speed of light** ( $c$ ), which is just under 300,000 kilometers per second. Like most waves, they have a **wavelength** ( $\lambda$ ) and a **frequency** ( $\nu$ ), and the mathematical relationship between these three properties is given by the equation  $c=\lambda\nu$ . This implies that the larger the frequency, the smaller the wavelength, and vice versa, because the speed of light ( $c$ ) must remain unchanged. The amount of energy carried by an electromagnetic wave depends on its frequency. This is reflected in Planck’s equation for energy,  $E = h\nu$ , which indicates that the higher the frequency ( $\nu$ ) of the wave, the more energy ( $E$ ) it carries. The ratio between energy and frequency is given by Planck’s constant ( $h$ ).<sup>16</sup> High frequency waves, such as ultraviolet waves, are more dangerous

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<sup>16</sup> See **H-bar**.

than low frequency waves, such as radio waves, because UV waves carry much more energy. They can therefore **ionize** molecules, disrupt cellular function, or cause radiation burns. From lowest energy to highest, the main types of electromagnetic radiation are: radio, microwave, infrared, visible light (red/orange/yellow/green/blue/indigo/violet), ultraviolet, X-ray, gamma ray.

**Electromagnetism:** The study of the interactions of **charged** particles, as well as the interactions between **electric fields**, **magnetic fields**, and **electromagnetic radiation**. The field was pioneered by Michael Faraday and James Clerk Maxwell.

**Electron:** One of the three subatomic particles out of which all **atoms** are made. (The other two are the **proton** and the **neutron**.) An electron is negatively **charged** and highly stable. Contrary to popular misconception, it is not a point particle<sup>17</sup> but it has a sub-structure that gives rise to its properties. According to (the absolute relativistic **sub-quantum mechanics** of) the **Williamson-van der Mark Model**<sup>18,19,20</sup> and the **Robinson Model**,<sup>21</sup> an electron is made of a single **photon** of light making two revolutions per wavelength, following a toroidal (donut-shaped) path. An electron-positron pair can be

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<sup>17</sup> See <https://quicycle.com/video/qv0047-john-g-williamson-misconception-1-the-size-of-the-electron/>

<sup>18</sup> John G. Williamson, Martin B. van der Mark, “Is the electron a photon with toroidal topology?” *Annales de la Fondation Louis de Broglie*. 22. 133. (1997)

<sup>19</sup> See John G. Williamson (2019). See also [www.Quicycle.com](http://www.Quicycle.com)

<sup>20</sup> Martin B. van der Mark, “Quantum particle, light clock or heavy beat box?” *Journal of Physics: Conference Series; Bristol* Vol. 1251, Iss. 1, (Jun 2019). DOI:10.1088/1742-6596/1251/1/012049

<sup>21</sup> See Robinson, *How to Build a Universe: Beyond the standard models* (2021)

formed when two (gamma ray) photons of the appropriate **energy** are condensed, forming two particles. One of the resulting double-loops, with its **electric field** pointing outwards, will have a positive charge — the **positron**, and the other, with its electric field pointing inwards, will have a negative charge — the electron. Similarly, when an electron and a positron interact, they unlock each other's **angular momenta**, releasing the once-confined photons as radiation in a matter-**antimatter** annihilation.<sup>22</sup> (This is *not* meant to imply that an electron can only form in a pair production event.) An electron is thus a self-confined knot of concentrated light energy traveling around itself at the speed of light. It is a topology, one that has a toroidal sub-structure in (momentum) space, but the charge field of an isolated electron (or an *s*-orbital electron around a hydrogen or helium atom) manifests as a sphere. (See **Spin** for more detail.) As a result of the geometry of this double-loop torus, the circularly-polarized photon's negative electric field is pointing outwards at all times, which is what gives the electron its negative charge. An electron has left-handed spin of  $\frac{1}{2}\hbar$ ,<sup>23</sup> a charge of  $-1.6 \times 10^{-19}$  Coulombs, and a **mass-energy** content of 511 keV.

**Element:** A unique, pure substance made up of only one type of **atom**. The number of **protons** in an atom's nucleus determines which element it is, and this is known as its **atomic number**. The **periodic table**<sup>24</sup> of the elements lists all 118 known elements in order of their atomic numbers. By way of example, the nuclei of all hydrogen atoms contain 1 proton, all helium nuclei contain two, and so on. The uranium atom has the heaviest naturally-occurring nucleus, and it contains 92 protons. All of the heavier nuclei, from atomic number 93 through 118,

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<sup>22</sup> See the image in the 'NOTE' at the beginning of the book, which presents this concept according to the rotating photon model of matter.

<sup>23</sup> See **H-bar**.

<sup>24</sup> See <https://quicycle.com/periodic-table/>



do not occur naturally and are created through the application of man-made nuclear technologies (like reactors, for example). They are all naturally unstable, and therefore, undergo **radioactive** decay.

**Energy:** Energy is defined as the ability to do work or to transfer heat. The larger the amount of energy, the more work can be done (or heat transferred). Many different forms of energy propagate as waves, for example **electromagnetic** (light) energy or sound energy. The way that we refer to waves is therefore also the most convenient way to refer to energy. Energy ( $E$ ) is most simply related to the **frequency** ( $\nu$ ) of its wave according to the Planck equation,  $E=h\nu$ . This indicates that the higher the frequency of a wave, the more energy it carries. ( $h$  represents Planck's constant.<sup>25</sup>) The energy of movement, kinetic energy ( $E_k$ ), is given by the equation  $E_k=1/2mv^2$ . This indicates that the larger the mass ( $m$ ) or the higher the velocity ( $v$ ), the more energy is carried. The average kinetic energy ( $\bar{E}$ ) of a gas particle is also related to its **temperature** ( $T$ ) by Boltzmann's equation  $\bar{E}=1.5k_B T$ . (Boltzmann's constant  $k_B=1.380649\times 10^{-23}$  J/K.) This indicates that the higher the temperature, the more energy is present.

**Epigenetics:** This is the study of how environmental factors, such as stress, toxins, lifestyle, or diet, can affect the way that our genes become expressed. This does not change the underlying **DNA** code, but it can change the role played by **molecules** involved in some of DNA's activities. This can turn genes on or off or change the way that cell machinery functions. Epigenetic traits can be passed on to the next generation, but they can also be reversed with appropriate environmental changes.

**Exoplanet:** A planet **orbiting** a star other than our Sun. Exoplanets are named by adding letters to the name of the star they orbit, starting with 'b,' since the star is considered to be 'a.' **Proxima**

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<sup>25</sup> See **H-bar**.

**Centauri** has more than one exoplanet orbiting it, and they are therefore named *Proxima b*, *Proxima c*, and so on. Earth is the third planet from the Sun, so Earth would be called *Sun d*, because Mercury is *Sun b*, Venus is *Sun c*, Mars is *Sun e*, and so on. There are around 100 identified exoplanets within 32.6 **light years** (10 **parsecs**) of Earth. Exoplanets are considered favorable candidates for exploration if they exist in their star's **habitable zone**, which means they may be able to sustain life, and if their **gravity** is not too large.

**Fever:** Normal human body **temperature** is 36.9°C (or 98°F) because that is the temperature that best supports the body's biochemistry. While there is a range of opinions, a temperature of just over 38°C (or 101°F) is considered a fever. When the body develops a fever, it is using an elevated temperature to help fight an infection. Although many view the fever itself as part of the problem, it is actually part of the body's natural attempt at a solution. Extreme fevers above 41°C (106°F) or 42°C (108°F) can be life threatening.

**Fibonacci sequence:** A series of numbers, starting with 0 and 1, in which each number is the sum of the two preceding numbers. The first 12 numbers in the sequence are: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89. The sequence appears in many natural growth patterns, for example the arrangement of leaves on a stem, the spiral patterns of shells, and the arrangement of seeds on the face of a sunflower. The ratio of consecutive terms approaches the golden ratio, 1.618, and the golden spiral can therefore be approximated using these numbers.

**Frequency** ( $\nu$ ): The frequency of a wave is a measure of how frequently one wave crest passes a given point each second. Put another way, the higher the frequency, the faster the wave oscillates back and forth. If two waves pass every second, that is a frequency of 2 waves "per second," also known as 2 Hertz (Hz). Frequency is measured in waves "per second," which means  $1 \div \text{sec}$  (or  $s^{-1}$ ). Frequency is therefore the inverse (or reciprocal) of **time**, which we measure in *sec* (or  $s^1$ ). Frequency

can be taken as a direct representation of **energy**. As reflected in the Planck equation,  $E=h\nu$ , the higher the frequency ( $\nu$ ) of an **electromagnetic** wave, the more energy ( $E$ ) it carries. ( $h$  is Planck's constant.<sup>26</sup>) High frequency ultraviolet waves are more dangerous than low frequency radio waves because the UV waves carry much more energy. With electromagnetic (light) waves, when frequency ( $\nu$ ) increases, **wavelength** ( $\lambda$ ) decreases, and vice versa. This is because the **speed of light** ( $c$ ) is constant, and the three are related by the equation  $c=\lambda\nu$ . Frequency is also the means by which we measure time, whether the frequency of a pendulum, an atom, or a planetary orbit. Without frequency, i.e. energy, there is no time measurement.

**Fungi:** This is one of the six genetically distinct kingdoms of life on Earth, two of the others being *Animalia* and *Plantae*. Mushrooms, yeast, and mold are all types of fungi. It is estimated that there are somewhere between two and four million different fungal species on Earth, and they come in a great variety of forms and structures. Fungi have no chloroplasts for performing **photosynthesis**, so they have to gain their energy and nutrition from organic life that has already formed. They therefore play an extremely important role in the decomposition (and thus, the nutrient recycling) of living matter throughout nature. Some fungi produce substances that act as hallucinogenics, such as **psilocybin**. Some produce toxic substances known as **mycotoxins**. Some mushrooms are also considered to have properties that support a healthy immune system. Fungi can even digest a pile of toxic oil spill waste, gradually replacing it with natural plant growth.

**Galaxy:** A collection of millions to hundreds of billions of stars. Galaxies occur in several different shapes, such as globular clusters or spirals. Spiral galaxies have very similar '**Fibonacci**' geometry to hurricanes and other natural spiral structures. Our galaxy, the Milky Way, is a barred spiral galaxy with a diameter

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<sup>26</sup> See **H-bar**.

of almost 200,000 **light years**, and is estimated to contain between 100 billion and 400 billion stars. Three quarters of these stars are believed to be **red dwarf** stars. The Milky Way is one among innumerable other galaxies in the universe.

**Ganymede:** The largest planetary moon in our solar system. It is the third (and largest) of the four main (Galilean) moons of Jupiter. Of the four, Io and Europa orbit closer to Jupiter than Ganymede, and Callisto orbits further out. There are many other smaller satellites orbiting Jupiter, but their combined **masses** are very small in comparison to the Galilean moons. Ganymede is larger than the planet Mercury, making it the 9th largest object in the solar system, and it has an icy, crater-pocked crust. Its surface receives large amounts of **radiation** from the planet Jupiter, enough to pose a risk to human health.

**Geiger counter:** A device that measures **radioactivity**. It makes an audible click sound each time a radioactive particle enters the detector. The faster the clicks are heard, the stronger the radioactivity in the vicinity.

**Gravity (G):** Gravity is a very weak force exerted by one **mass** upon another. (We could equally well describe mass as being a manifestation of the presence of a gravitational effect.) The force of gravity is approximately  $10^{38}$  times weaker than **electromagnetism**.<sup>27</sup> Isaac Newton's equation for gravity is:

$$F_N = \frac{GMm}{r^2}.$$

This equation describes that the force ( $F$ ) of attraction exerted by one mass ( $M$ ) upon another mass ( $m$ ) gets larger as the masses increase and weaker as the distance ( $r$ ) between them increases. (The gravitational constant  $G=6.674 \times 10^{-11} m^3 kg^{-1} s^{-2}$ .) According to Albert Einstein, gravity is a result of mass

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<sup>27</sup>  $10^{38}$  means

100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.

distorting **spacetime**. According to the **Robinson Model** of Quantum Gravity, the *mechanism* by which mass distorts spacetime is via the **redshift** of **photons**,<sup>28,29</sup> since matter is made of photons. Gravity results from a change in the refractive index of space, which is caused by the radial differential of the **electric permittivity** ( $\epsilon$ ) of space around mass. This is induced by the high frequency **electric field** oscillations resulting from the rotating photon structure of **protons** and **neutrons**. The high frequency nucleon oscillations add to produce a variation in electric permittivity that produces the same deflection for photons of all frequencies. This approach yields a *single*, simple equation of quantum gravity:

$$F_z = \frac{GMm}{r^2 e^{\frac{\alpha}{r}}}$$

where  $\alpha=2GM/c^2$ . This equation derives Newton's inverse square law as a first approximation, Einstein's field equations as a second approximation, and the bright torus-shaped accretion disc observed (at  $r=0.5\alpha$ ) around massive objects and galactic centers as an exact solution. According to this model, *gravity is an **electromagnetic** effect*. When a very large mass distorts spacetime strongly, the force of gravity is weakened to slightly *less* than inverse-square. That is the reason the **orbit** of Mercury's perihelion precesses around the Sun in its direction of travel. (If gravity were stronger than inverse-square, such orbits would regress.<sup>30</sup>)

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<sup>28</sup> Vivian N. E. Robinson, "Physical Explanations of Einstein's Gravity," *Journal of Physics Communications*, **5** 035013 (2021)

<sup>29</sup> See Robinson, *How to Build a Universe: Beyond the standard models* (2021), chapter 9.

<sup>30</sup> See also <https://quicycle.com/breakthroughs/> as to why Schwarzschild's 'strong field' solution to an approximation in Einstein's general theory of relativity, taken out of context, is problematic and yields flawed results.

**H-bar ( $\hbar$ ):** The variable  $h$ -bar ( $\hbar$ ) means  $h \div 2\pi$ , and it represents a **quantum** rotation. Planck's constant ( $h$ ) is a number that represents the ratio between **frequency** and **energy** at the quantum scale, and it has a value of  $6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ m}^2\text{kg/s}$ . The  $2\pi$  represents the circumference of the rotation. A **spin** of  $\hbar$  represents one full rotation per **wavelength**, as in the case of a circularly polarized **photon**. A spin of  $\frac{1}{2}\hbar$  represents a double-loop rotation per wavelength, as in the cases of the **electron**, **proton**, **neutron**, **neutrino**, and their **anti-particles**.

**Habitable zone:** The range of distances from a star at which planetary **temperatures** would be survivable for human beings, and at which liquid water would be able to exist on the planet's surface — assuming it has the appropriate atmospheric conditions. This is because water is considered essential for the existence and sustenance of biological life. In our solar system, the habitable zone encompasses Venus at the hot end, Earth in the (ideal) center, and Mars at the cold end. The habitable zone around a small dim star (like **Proxima Centauri**) will be much closer to the star than around a much more powerful star (like our Sun). This will also make the planet's year much shorter.

**Hand lens:** A small magnifying lens, similar to a jeweler's lens, that geologists use to look closely at the minerals in a sample of rock in order to help identify the rock type.

**Harmonic resonance:** When an object vibrates or when waves interact, if their **frequencies** are multiples of one another and their phases are aligned, then some of their nodes can overlap perfectly where they meet. The waves then reinforce each other and stabilize into a single symmetrical wave state. Standing waves are an example. Such a harmonic resonance represents a lower **energy** state for a system since the waves can now share energy. They will therefore naturally seek out this state if they can. One example of a harmonic resonance would be the wave state set up on a guitar or a violin string when they are played,

since multiple harmonics are sounding at different frequencies simultaneously with their waves superimposed along the string. Another harmonic resonance occurs when a wine glass is shattered by a sound wave whose frequency resonates perfectly with its interior volume. If the sound wave carries enough power, the vibrations it induces in the glass structure can destabilize it, causing it to crack or shatter. Subatomic particles like **protons** or **electrons** are also harmonic resonance states involving the rotating **photons** of various energies that make them up. Overall, **quantum** states can only be stable and coherent if they are in a state of harmonic resonance. Since there are no stable states between harmonics, it means that *harmonic states are intrinsically quantized*.

Mathematically: 'Harmonic' means that the wave equations satisfy the double differential of themselves (where  $\nabla^2=0$ ).

**Igneous rock:** Rock that forms when volcanic lava cools and hardens. Granite is an example. All rock types begin as igneous rock, which can then be weathered, eroded, and deposited to yield **sedimentary** rock (like sandstone) or subjected to tectonic heat and pressure to produce metamorphic rock (like slate). (*See Rock cycle.*)

**Inertia:** The tendency of a **mass** to resist changing its motion. It is more difficult to begin moving a heavy, stationary mass than it is to keep it moving if it is already moving. It requires force to change the speed or direction (both of which are accelerations) of a heavy mass that is moving, and even more force to stop it completely. For a rotating body, it takes energy to change its rotation since **angular momentum** has rotational inertia. The G-forces a pilot experiences when accelerating or turning sharply are the result of his body's inertia to keep moving at a constant velocity relative to the aircraft that is forcibly accelerating him. (*See 7-G.*) A gyroscope resists changing its orientation as a result of its strong rotational inertia.

**Inertial bubble:** A theoretical region or volume of space, perhaps within a device or force field, that protects those inside from **gravitational** or **inertial** forces. A craft within an inertial bubble could accelerate suddenly and extremely without those on board feeling any G-forces or negative effects.

**Ion:** An **atom** that has lost or gained one or more **electrons**, which changes its **charge** from neutral to either positive or negative. In nature, crystals like salt are made of ions. While the term can refer to either positive or negative ions, it is often used to refer to positive ions, as in the case of **cosmic rays**, for example. **Electromagnetic radiation** that has enough **energy** to knock electrons free from atoms is called ionizing radiation because it creates ions by doing so. This also makes it hazardous to biological tissue, since changing the charge on a **molecule** in the body will affect the chemical role it plays.

**Isotope:** **Atoms** of the same **element** can have different **masses** if they have different numbers of **neutrons** in their nucleus. This does not change the **charge** balance in the atom because neutrons are neutral, and it does not change the type of element because that depends only on the number of **protons**. Some isotopes are stable but others are **radioactive** and break down, emitting potentially dangerous radiation. By way of example, uranium has two primary isotopes, the more stable  $U^{238}$  isotope and the **radioactive**  $U^{235}$  isotope. Over 99% of uranium atoms have a mass of 238 atomic mass units; less than 1% have a mass of 235 amu. This is the reason uranium atoms are separated in a centrifuge in order to collect enough  $U^{235}$  for use in a reactor or a bomb. Using **angular momentum** and **inertia**, a centrifuge causes the heavier isotopes to collect in the outer regions of the sample being spun, separating them from the lighter isotopes remaining in the inner regions.

**Kelvin (K):** A unit of **temperature** when measuring on the absolute temperature scale, as opposed to Celsius or Fahrenheit. Temperature is a measure of the average kinetic (movement) **energy** of the particles in a substance. A temperature of zero



kelvin (0K, which equals  $-273^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) is called Absolute Zero, and it represents a theoretical state in which all particle movement has stopped. A change of 1K is the same temperature change as  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$ , but the two scales just measure from different starting points. In the Celsius scale, zero degrees ( $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) represents the freezing point of water, which is equal to  $+273\text{K}$ .

**Lichen:** (Pronounced: ‘liken.’) A mossy, plant-like organism that typically develops on rocks, trees, or other surfaces. It occurs when algae or bacteria live amongst different types of **fungi**, and it is usually one of the earliest type of organism to inhabit bare rock. Lichens begin the process of chemically eroding the rock because they absorb nutrients from it. This activity also plays an important role in the process of soil development.

**Light:** (*See electromagnetic radiation*)

**Light year (ly):** The distance that light (**electromagnetic radiation**) travels in a year. Since the **speed of light** is 299,792,458 meters per second, which is about 671 million miles per hour, in one year, light will travel a distance of 9.46 trillion kilometers, or 5.88 trillion miles. For reference, the Sun is 93 million miles from Earth, which would make it only 0.00001581 light years from Earth. The nearest star, **Proxima Centauri**, is 4.246 light years away, which is more than 250,000 times further from Earth than the Sun. **Galaxies** can be hundreds of thousands of light years across and millions or even billions of light years apart.

**Lycophyte:** A type of small vascular plant dating back to the **Silurian** Period. The larger tree-like lycophytes are now extinct.

**Magnetic field:** One of the two fields expressed in **electromagnetic radiation** (i.e. **photons**). (The other is **electric field**.) It is the magnetic field of the rotating photon within a subatomic particle that generates its **magnetism**. The magnetic field at a point can be thought of as a description of how a charge, placed at that point, will curve as it moves — a (bi-)vector field. It will

either curve one way or the other, based upon the polarity of its charge, as well as based upon the distance and strength of the field source. Magnetic field is additive, and the field at a point will always be the (vector) sum of all fields, from all sources, passing through that point. We call one polarity of the magnetic field 'north' and the opposite polarity 'south.' According to the **Rotating Photon Model** of matter, in subatomic particles, the north pole is the one around which a negative **charge** will rotate with a left-handed **chirality**, and a positive charge with a right-handed chirality.

**Magnetic permeability** ( $\mu_0$ ): **Electromagnetic** energy does not travel through **spacetime** at an infinite speed. The **speed of light** is limited by the very nature of spacetime, whatever it is. By analogy, magnetic permeability might be thought of as how well spacetime can hold magnetic flux, or how 'transparent' it is to the passage of **magnetic fields** or electromagnetic **photons**. (See **spacetime** for more detail.)

**Magnetism**: A force of attraction or repulsion resulting from the flow of electric current or the spin of a **charged** particle. According to both the **Williamson-van der Mark** and **Robinson models**, subatomic particles are comprised of a self-confined **photon** of the appropriate energy making two revolutions per wavelength. They are therefore concentrated knots of **electromagnetic** radiation. In the toroidal, double-loop rotation of the **electron**, for example, **chirality**<sup>31</sup> is immediately a characteristic of the system because the flow is rotating. This naturally divides the spinning object into a 'top' and 'bottom,' where the rotation appears to be clockwise when viewed from one but counter-clockwise when viewed from the other. Since magnetism is a spin effect, resulting from the **magnetic fields** of the photons within this rotating flow, it divides magnetism into two complementary forms that we call north and south. They are simply the two orientations of the rotating flow, that directs one magnetic polarity in one direction

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<sup>31</sup> 'Spin handedness.'

and the other polarity in the other. In an electron, the (instantaneous) north magnetic pole lies along the axis running through the center of the torus, in the direction of the thumb in a left-handed chiral rotation. South lies in the opposite direction. In an isolated electron, the magnetic field averages to zero (due to the electron's overall **spin**). The magnetic moment of the electron emerges in an external field, which breaks the internal symmetry of an isolated electron. A magnetic source extends its field into the **spacetime** around it. The magnetic fields of other nearby electrons will interact with this electron's field in such a way that north repels north but attracts south. This ultimately derives from the fact that magnetic field is either interacting through constructive interference, which increases **energy** (repulsive), or destructive interference, which lowers energy (attractive). When the unpaired electrons throughout a metal align their magnetic spins, the metal as a whole manifests a macro-magnetic field as a result of their spins locking into a single, coherent, **harmonic** resonance state. One example of this is an iron ferromagnet. When electrons pair up in a covalent bond, on the other hand, they superimpose in a way that finds them perfectly anti-parallel, which cancels their magnetic fields through destructive interference, significantly lowering their energy.<sup>32</sup> Another example is the electron shell of a helium atom. Electron pairs repel other magnetic fields. This is called diamagnetism, and it happens in order to avoid disrupting and to maintain their perfect, low-energy, field-cancelling harmonic state.

For the more technical and mathematically minded: It is interesting to note that different forms of energy interact with spacetime in different ways.<sup>33</sup> The fact that magnetism is so closely related to spin is reflected in its mathematics. Whereas the underlying nature of the (3-component) bi-vector **electric**

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<sup>32</sup> John G. Williamson, Arnie Benn, Michael Mercury, "Quantum Spin Coherence In Four Derived 3-Spaces," *Quicycle* (2022) <https://quicycle.com/quicyclejournal/>

<sup>33</sup> *ibid.*

**field** is that of a rate of change of space by time ( $dx/dt, dy/dt, dz/dt$ ), the bi-vector magnetic field is that of a rate of change of space by perpendicular space ( $dx/dy, dy/dz, dz/dx$ ). They are related such that, if electric field is directed as  $dz/dt$ , its corresponding magnetic orientation would be the orthogonal  $dx/dy$ . A partial analogy is that of a spatial torsion or 'twist-bias,' though not a rotation since there is no time ( $t$ ) component in these derivatives. While the physical effect of an electric field on a charge is to accelerate it linearly, that of the magnetic field is to make it go round and round in circles. It is therefore no surprise that the combination of these — the electromagnetic fields of a photon — spiral as it travels (when photons have circular polarization).

**Magnetosphere:** The region of **magnetic field** that surrounds a star or planet. It is believed to be generated by a magnetic dynamo action occurring within its core. A planet's magnetosphere deflects **charged** particles like **cosmic rays** around the planet, which serves to protect organisms living on its surface by reducing the amount of high **energy** particle radiation they receive from space. It also helps preserve a planet's atmosphere because, without this magnetic shielding, these high energy particles can knock atmospheric molecules off into space. Over time, this can deplete the atmosphere entirely.

**Mass:** Radiant **energy** and matter are two forms of the same **root-energy** 'stuff.' According to (the **sub-quantum mechanics** of) the **Williamson-van der Mark** and the **Robinson Models**, particles that have mass, such as **electrons**, are really **photons** of light that are traveling in a circle (or knot) rather than in a straight line. Such concentrated, self-sustaining photon resonance structures are the essence of matter. They confer mass on particles by virtue of the way that rotating photons interact with the fabric of **spacetime** to generate **gravity**. The more matter is present, the greater the gravitational effect, and thus, the larger the mass. This conception of mass, as arising from the dynamic energy flow within a particle, extends beyond that

represented in the Dirac equation,<sup>34</sup> where mass is inserted as a separate, static (scalar) quantity. This is simply because, prior to the development of sub-quantum mechanics, this dynamics was unknown and inaccessible.

**Mass spectrometer:** A device used to measure the **mass** and **charge-to-mass** ratio of **ions**. **Atoms** of the same **element** that have different masses are called **isotopes**. A mass spectrometer is able to measure the relative abundance of each isotope within an element. It is the way we know that over 99% of uranium atoms have a mass of 238 atomic mass units, and less than 1% have a mass of 235 amu.

**Molecule:** A combination of two or more **atoms** bonded together. Unlike in a ‘continuous’ crystal, molecules are discrete multi-atomic units. Simple examples include the hydrogen molecule (H<sub>2</sub>), the oxygen molecule (O<sub>2</sub>), and the water molecule (H<sub>2</sub>O). More complex examples include **protein** and **DNA** molecules, which can contain many thousands of atoms.

**Mycoprotein:** A **protein** that comes from mushrooms (or **fungi**). As a leaner source of protein, it can be used as a meat-alternative, and it is also high in fiber. Since **mycotoxins** remain a concern, production must include comprehensive monitoring against toxicity.

**Mycotoxin:** A toxic substance produced by certain species of **fungi**. There are many different species of mushroom/fungi that produce mycotoxins that can be toxic to humans and animals, and some can even be lethal. Illness that is caused by exposure to a mycotoxin is called mycotoxicosis.

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<sup>34</sup> Dirac equation in natural units:  $(i\partial - m)\psi(x) = 0$ , where  $m$  represents the scalar mass term.

**Neutrino:** The neutrino is the lightest stable subatomic particle. It has no **charge**, no **magnetic** moment, a **spin** of  $\frac{1}{2}\hbar$ ,<sup>35</sup> and an exceedingly small rest **mass-energy** of the order of  $10^{-4}$  eV. That **energy** corresponds to the peak energy of the cosmic microwave background radiation **temperature** of  $\sim 2.7^\circ\text{K}$ . Cosmological neutrinos constitute by far the most common component of the universe with a density of about  $10^{12}$  neutrinos per cubic meter.<sup>36</sup> According to the **rotating photon model** of matter, like the **electron**, the neutrino is comprised of a single **photon** of the appropriate energy making two revolutions per wavelength. Neutrinos can travel at very high speeds approaching the speed of light. While they do not easily interact with matter, neutrinos (and anti-neutrinos) can be either captured or released during the process of one subatomic particle morphing into another (see **nuclear reaction**). The universe is literally filled with neutrinos. Neutrinos are not point particles. They are rotating photon loops, just like all other particles, and they therefore have size. There are over a million cosmic neutrinos in every cubic millimeter of space. This provides a virtually continuous ‘substrate’ through all of space, one that has the same quantum spin as the other subatomic particles, through which all photons must travel. According to the **Robinson Model**, this increases the viscosity of **spacetime** for the photons traversing it, which causes a slight loss of momentum, which, over very large distances, results in the **redshift** of cosmic photons.

**Neutron:** The neutron is one of the three subatomic particles that make up **atoms**. The other two are the **proton** and **electron**. Neutrons carry no overall **charge** and are found in the central nucleus of the atom along with the protons. Protons and neutrons each have more than 1,800 times more **mass** than an electron. According to the standard model of physics, the neutron is believed to be a composite particle made up of three

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<sup>35</sup> See **H-bar**.

<sup>36</sup> See Robinson, *ibid.*, chapters 3 & 11.

quarks — two ‘down’ quarks and one ‘up’ quark — that are held together by a binding **energy**. The quarks constitute about 1% of the neutron's mass-energy and the binding energy contributes the remaining 99%. According to the **Robinson Model**, like all subatomic particles, the neutron is made of a **photon** of light of the appropriate energy making two revolutions per wavelength. While a charged particle like the proton will be made of a circularly-polarized photon, a neutral particle like the neutron will be made of a plane-polarized photon. The neutron's lack of charge arises from the plane-polarization of its inner photon. The orientation of its **electric field**, as it makes its double loop rotation, is such that the positive and negative fields alternate pointing outwards. While each resonant element within the neutron's structure has charge, the overall result is a net neutral particle. As a result of its plane-polarization, an isolated neutron is not stable. It usually decays within 15 minutes, splitting into a proton, an electron, and an anti-**neutrino**. (The latter is the means by which the **angular momentum** of all the particles involved in the transition is conserved.) When bound to a proton within a nucleus, however, a neutron is stable as a result of the resonance and field sharing between the particles. While in the case of the electron, the internal photon traces a toroidal path in (momentum) space as it completes its double-loop rotation, in the case of the neutron, it is a little more complex. Since the neutron contains more than 1,800 times the mass-energy of the electron, according to the Robinson Model its rotating photon resonance also contains higher energy **harmonics** of its fundamental rotation — 1/3<sup>rd</sup>, 1/9<sup>th</sup>, and 1/27<sup>th</sup> harmonics. Since quarks have never been isolated and seem to occur only in their groupings of three, the photon harmonics of the Robinson Model may provide insight into why quarks do not occur except as part of such a stable resonance. In atoms, neutrons are very important, not simply because they separate the positive protons — whose like charges repel — but because they actually *bind* the protons together *electrostatically*. The exterior 1/27<sup>th</sup> photon harmonic of the neutron is negative, and binds to the positive exterior resonance of the proton through an overlapping

‘division-by-zero’ attraction.<sup>37</sup> As a result of being made of a rotating photon, a neutron has a **quantum spin** of  $\frac{1}{2}\hbar$ .<sup>38</sup> The mass of the neutron (939.6 MeV) is very similar to (though slightly larger than) the combined masses of the proton (938.3 MeV) and electron (0.511 MeV). The difference in their masses represents the difference in energy between the neutron state and the electro-proton state that is the hydrogen atom.

**Newton’s third law:** For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. This means that if two people are floating beside each other in zero **gravity** (see **Zero-G**) and one acts by pushing the other to the left, the one who did the pushing will react by recoiling to the right. Another example includes the physics of a rocket booster. When exploding gas is allowed to escape in only one direction, backwards, then the closed side of the rocket engine that is resisting it will be pushed in the opposite direction, forwards, and with equivalent force.

**Nuclear reaction:** A reaction in which an **atom**’s nucleus undergoes a change. Examples: two nuclei fusing to form one larger one, as in nuclear fusion; one nucleus splitting to yield two new smaller nuclei, as in nuclear fission; a **proton** or **neutron** morphing or ‘transmuting’ into the other, which involves either the absorption or emission of **radiation**, matter, or **antimatter**. When a neutron ( $n^0$ ) decays into a proton ( $p^+$ ), it also releases an **electron** ( $e^-$ ) and an (anti-electron) **neutrino** ( $\bar{\nu}_e$ ) in the process:  $n^0 \rightleftharpoons p^+ + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$ . (As the double arrow indicates, this can also occur in reverse.) The result is that the *nucleus* ejects an electron, which is called beta ( $\beta^-$ ) radiation (see **radioactivity**). The atom’s **atomic number** also increases by one, turning it into the following element on the **periodic table**. In this example,

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<sup>37</sup> See Robinson, *How to Build a Universe: Beyond the standard models* (2021), chapter 5.

See also [www.Quicycle.com](http://www.Quicycle.com)

<sup>38</sup> See **H-bar**.



when a uranium ( ${}_{92}\text{U}$ ) atom undergoes beta decay, it turns into neptunium ( ${}_{93}\text{Np}$ ). If it happens again to the same atom, it becomes an atom of plutonium ( ${}_{94}\text{Pu}$ ). That is, in fact, how plutonium is produced.

**Nucleotide:** (*see DNA*)

**Orbit:** A state of continuous free-fall where one object, a satellite, is revolving around a more massive object like a planet. The satellite is attracted to the planet by **gravity**, while its velocity wants to send it off into space at a tangent. When these two forces are exactly equal, the satellite remains the same distance from the object and an orbit has been achieved. Satellites can orbit at various speeds and altitudes. Orbital speed ( $v$ ) is fixed by the **mass** ( $M$ ) of the planet and the distance of the orbit from its center ( $r$ ), according to the equation  $v^2 = GM/r$ . (The gravitational constant  $G = 6.674 \times 10^{-11} \text{m}^3 \text{kg}^{-1} \text{s}^{-2}$ .)

**Paleozoic era:** A geological era on Earth from about 539 million years ago to about 252 million years ago. It is subdivided into six geological periods, the **Cambrian**, Ordovician, **Silurian**, Devonian, Carboniferous, and **Permian** periods.

**Parsec:** A distance of about 3.26 **light years**. **Proxima Centauri** is 1.3 parsecs from Earth.

**Pathogen:** An organism that causes disease or illness. These include bacteria, viruses, **fungi**, and various other micro-organisms.

**Periodic table:** A chart<sup>39</sup> containing all of the chemical **elements** that have been discovered. They are arranged in order of their **atomic number**, as well as in rows and columns. These reflect the periodic nature of the elements — that those in the same column exhibit similar properties, and those in the same row exhibit similar trends in their properties. This structure was first discovered by Dmitri Mendele'ev in 1869.

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<sup>39</sup> See <https://quicycle.com/periodic-table/>

**Permian Period:** A geological period on Earth from about 299 million years ago to about 252 million years ago. It constitutes the last period of the **Paleozoic** era, and is characterized by the diversification of, amongst other things, insects and reptiles.

**Photon:** A **quantum** (or ‘packet’ or ‘bullet’) of light **energy**. **Electromagnetic radiation** travels in discrete packets called photons. It does not travel in a continuous stream, as we might imagine when we look at a beam of light or a laser. There are so many photons being released so rapidly by a light source that it only gives the impression of being a continuous beam. Each photon of electromagnetic energy moves through **spacetime** as a light-speed energy disturbance. Individual photons travel in a straight line<sup>40</sup> in the case of radiation, or in a self-confined double-loop, rotating ‘knot’ in the case of subatomic particles<sup>41</sup> (see **proton**, **neutron**, **electron** and **neutrino**). Photons themselves can either be plane-polarized or circularly-polarized around their axis of travel. Circular polarization is the more stable of the two, given the intrinsic **spin** (angular momentum) of its electromagnetic fields, and will naturally result from the emission of a photon from a spherically **harmonic** states such as an electron orbital in an **atom**. Because the photon’s **electric field** and **magnetic field** complete one rotation around their axis of travel per wavelength, it gives the photon an integral **spin** ( $\hbar$ ).<sup>42</sup> Circularly-polarized light can be converted into plane-polarized light by passing it through a polarizing filter.

**Photosynthesis:** The process by which a plant cell captures sunlight and uses that **energy** to convert carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the air and water (H<sub>2</sub>O) into oxygen gas (O<sub>2</sub>) and sugar (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>6</sub>) molecules, which it can then use as food/fuel. This is the point

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<sup>40</sup> Excluding the case of gravitational lensing here.

<sup>41</sup> According to the **rotating photon model** of matter proposed in the **Williamson-van der Mark** and **Robinson Models**.

<sup>42</sup> See **H-bar**.

at which sunlight energy is captured and made available, as food energy, for living organisms. Since animals do not have photosynthetic skin, in order to mine that solar food energy for their own bodies, they must either eat plants or they must eat other animals who mined it by eating plants. In plant cells, photosynthesis takes place in small green organelles called chloroplasts. The type of chemical **molecules** that facilitate the actual capture of light energy are called chlorophylls. Different chlorophyll molecules can absorb light radiation at different **wavelengths**, and as a result, we find different chlorophyll molecules in surface plants, for example, than we do in plants that live at depths in the ocean where only longer wavelengths of sunlight can penetrate.

**Plasma:** While there are different types of plasmas, the term is used mostly to refer to a state of matter in which **electrons** have become separated from **atoms**, resulting in the presence of negatively **charged** electrons and positively charged atomic **ions**. It often involves high **temperature** environments since these have enough **energy** to ionize (eject) electrons from atoms. Plasmas can support current flow since they contain movable charges that will seek equilibrium. Most of the matter in the universe is in the form of plasma. Examples include the **solar wind** and lightning.

**Port side:** The left side of a boat or aircraft when facing forward. Centuries ago, before central rudders, ships were steered from the rear with a steering oar located on the right side of the ship. In order to avoid it, when entering port, the ship would tie up at a dock on its left side. The port side was previously called the larboard side, meaning the side where the loading was done, but it was changed due to its similarity to **starboard**.

**Positron:** A positively **charged** subatomic particle, identical to the **electron**, except that it has the opposite charge. It is therefore the electron's 'anti-particle,' and this illustrates the concept of **antimatter**. According to the **rotating photon model**, like the electron, it is made of a single **photon** of light making two

revolutions per wavelength, though its rotating photon has opposite **chirality**. A positron is thus a self-confined knot of concentrated light **energy** traveling around itself at the **speed of light**, and it therefore has a toroidal (donut-shaped) sub-structure in (momentum) space. As a result of the geometry of this double-loop torus, the photon's positive **electric field** is pointing outwards at all times, which is what gives the positron its positive charge. When an electron and a positron meet, they unlock each other's photon **angular momenta**, converting their rotating photons to linear photons in an explosion of pure energy called a matter-**antimatter** annihilation.<sup>43</sup> A positron has a right-handed spin of  $\frac{1}{2}\hbar$ ,<sup>44</sup> a charge of  $+1.6 \times 10^{-19}$  Coulombs, and a **mass-energy** content of 511 keV.

**Pressure** (of a gas): The force exerted by all of the collisions of the individual particles in a gas as they strike a surface randomly. The more particles are present in a given volume, the higher the pressure because there will be more collisions against its surfaces, expressing itself as a larger overall force. The higher the **temperature** in a given volume, the higher the pressure because gas particles move faster at higher temperatures (*see energy*), and they will therefore be colliding against its surface with more momentum. Atmospheric pressure is the force exerted by the air in the **atmosphere** adjacent to the surface of a planet, as its gas particles strike any surfaces in their vicinity.

**Protein**: A very long **molecule**, a polymer made up of many individual building-block molecules called amino acids, which are assembled into a long chain. Proteins are a key component in and a nutrient for many living organisms. They are made inside cells by small structures called ribosomes. In order to make a protein, a section of the **DNA** molecule is replicated,

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<sup>43</sup> See the image in the 'NOTE' at the beginning of the book, which presents this concept according to the **rotating photon model** of matter.

<sup>44</sup> See **H-bar**.

making an **RNA** molecule that is used as a template. Amino acids are then assembled in the correct order according to the (nucleotide) code in that (RNA) template, and this results in a protein chain being assembled according to the instructions in the DNA code. While the DNA helix is assembled out of only 4 different nucleotides — A, T, G, and C — there are 21 different amino acids in nature that are used to assemble our proteins, and this means that proteins can come in an almost endless variety. The amino acids in the protein chain can also interact with one another, which bends the protein molecules (presumably as they are being assembled) into all manner of unique shapes that have very important biological implications.

**Proton:** The proton is one of the three subatomic particles that make up **atoms**. The other two are the **neutron** and **electron**. Protons are stable, carry a positive **charge**, and are found in the central nucleus of the atom along with the neutrons. Protons and neutrons each have more than 1,800 times the **mass** of an electron. According to the standard model of physics, the proton is believed to be a composite particle made up of three quarks — two ‘up’ quarks and one ‘down’ quark — that are held together by a binding **energy**. The quarks constitute about 1% of the proton’s mass-energy and the binding energy contributes the remaining 99%. According to the **Robinson Model**,<sup>45</sup> like all subatomic particles, the proton is made of a **photon** of light of the appropriate energy making two revolutions per wavelength. While in the case of the electron, the internal photon traces a toroidal path in (momentum) space as it completes its double-loop rotation, in the case of the proton, it is a little more complex. Since the proton contains about 1,836 times more mass-energy than the electron, its rotating photon resonance also contain higher energy **harmonics** of its fundamental rotation — 1/3<sup>rd</sup> and 1/9<sup>th</sup> harmonics. Since quarks have never been isolated and seem to occur only in their

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<sup>45</sup> See Robinson, *How to Build a Universe: Beyond the standard models* (2021), chapter 5.

See also [www.Quicycle.com](http://www.Quicycle.com)

groupings of three, the photon harmonics of the Robinson Model may provide insight into why quarks do not occur except as part of such a stable resonance. Protons are important because atoms of a given **element** are identified according to their number of protons. This is called the **atomic number**, and the **periodic table** of the elements is laid out in order of atomic number. The first element on the periodic table, hydrogen, has 1 proton. The second element, helium, has 2 protons, and so on. It is also the presence of the protons in the central nucleus that attracts electrons to the atom, specifically in order to neutralize their charge. Neutrons are attracted into the mix not only in order to separate the protons from one another (since their like positive charges repel one another) but to *bind* the protons together (since, according to the Robinson Model of Nuclear Binding, the exterior resonance of the neutron is negative). As a result of being made of a rotating double-loop photon, a proton has a **quantum spin** of  $\frac{1}{2}\hbar$ .<sup>46</sup> It has a mass-energy content of 938.3 MeV and carries a charge of  $+1.6 \times 10^{-19}$  Coulombs. According to the Robinson Model, the proton's charge arises from the fact that the orientation of its internal circularly-polarized photon's **electric field**, as it makes its double-loop rotation, is such that the positive field polarity is outwardly directed for the majority of its harmonic oscillations, and in particular, for the outermost one. This results in a net positive charge for the particle.

**Proxima Centauri:** The nearest star to our Sun, at a distance of 4.2465 **light years** — about 25 trillion miles or just over 40 trillion kilometers. It is a **red dwarf** star in the **Alpha Centauri** three-star system. It has 3 **exoplanets** that we know of, with Proxima b being the only one in the star's **habitable zone**.

**Psilocybin:** A compound found in many species of **fungi** that can induce a psychedelic or hallucinogenic experience due to its particular form of toxicity.

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<sup>46</sup> See **H-bar**.

**Quantum:** ‘Quantum’ means ‘countable.’ It means that something happens in integer units. It implies that changes must occur in discrete steps rather than a smooth, continuous gradient. A system that has these ‘quantum leaps’ of change is called ‘quantized.’ Stairs and piano keyboards are examples of things that are quantized. Ramps and violins are not. The fundamental reason for quantization is that waves **resonate** in multiples of their wavelengths, rather than at arbitrary points in between. Subatomic particles are made of photons that make double-loop rotations. They are only stable if their rotations are in multiples of complete double-loops. A “quantum” of light is called a **photon**, and it is the amount of **electromagnetic** energy that is emitted, transmitted, or absorbed in a quantum inter-action. A photon can even have a very high **energy**, which means that each wave packet at that **wavelength** carries a large amount of energy. An example is the gamma ray. **Electron** clouds in **atoms** can also only manifest certain discrete electron states. This is because each electron is an identical unit, and because their interactions result in discrete, resonant, stationary wave states. Electron clouds transition between adjacent energy states by emitting or absorbing whole photons (or electrons) — one quantum at a time.

**Quantum gravity:** (*see Gravity*)

**Quantum mechanics:** The science that describes **light**, subatomic particles, and their **quantum** interactions. It is based upon the idea that all interactions are quantized wave interactions. Particles and **energy** states can be described by equations called wave-functions, since they *are* resonant wave states made up of **photons**. Its applications include technologies involving the atomic and subatomic scales, such as chemistry and electronics.

**Quantum spin:** (*see spin*)

**Radiation:** This usually refers to **electromagnetic radiation**, but the term is sometimes applied to (a flow of) particles, for example **radioactive** beta emission, in which case the radiation

involves **electrons**, or **cosmic rays**, in which case the radiation involves positive **atomic ions**.

**Radioactivity:** The balance between **protons** and neutrons in an **atom's** nucleus is very important (*see* **neutron**). If a nucleus has either too many or too few neutrons, it lacks stability, and it may therefore begin ejecting or transmuting some of its subatomic particles in order to reach a stable configuration. This is called radioactivity, and it was discovered by Marie Curie in the late 1890s. It involves the ejection (or absorption) of a subatomic particle (or **antiparticle**) or a **photon**, or both, from an atomic nucleus. Alpha ( $\alpha$ ) radiation occurs when two protons and two neutrons are ejected in a planar, diamond-shaped cluster with a 2+ charge, also called an alpha particle. It is identical to the nucleus of a helium atom. Beta ( $\beta$ ) radiation occurs when a neutron in the nucleus morphs into a proton by ejecting an **electron** and an anti-**neutrino** (*see* **nuclear reaction**). A radioactive decay in which the number of protons changes results in the atom turning into a different **element**. In the case of gamma ( $\gamma$ ) radiation, only a (gamma ray) photon is emitted, and the type of element will not be changed. Almost all of the radioactive atoms on the **periodic table** are those with high **atomic numbers** and large nuclei. Radioactivity can be detected using a **Geiger counter**, which clicks every time a radioactive emission enters the detector. The more frequent the clicks, the more intense (and dangerous) the radioactivity.

**Red dwarf star:** The smallest and coolest star type in the 'main sequence' classification of stars. It is thought to be one of the most common types of star in our Milky Way **galaxy**, even though they are too dim to be seen with the naked eye from Earth. **Proxima Centauri** is a red dwarf star, as are nine of the next eleven nearest stars to our solar system.

**Redshift ( $z$ ):** The stretching of the **wavelength** of light **radiation**. It can be a perceived stretching, like the **Doppler effect**, or an actual physical effect where a **photon** loses energy. A Doppler



effect redshift occurs when a **light** source is getting further away, either because we are moving away from it or it is moving away from us. This gives the *impression* that its wavelength is getting longer and its **frequency** lower. The longer wavelengths of visible light lie towards the red end of the rainbow spectrum, which means redshifted light literally gets redder, and hence the name. Redshift can also result from a **photon** propagating directly away from a gravitational field.<sup>47</sup> Photons have **inertial** mass, and they are therefore affected by **gravity**. Such interactions will reduce their **energy**. A reduction in photon energy means a reduction in its frequency because the **speed of light** is constant. This necessarily results in an increase in its wavelength. (The photon would be similarly **blueshifted** if it were moving towards the **mass**.) According to the **Robinson Model**, when photons travel vast distances through space, they also lose momentum energy very gradually as a result of the viscosity of the space through which they are traveling. This is caused by the ubiquitous presence of about  $10^{13}$  cosmic **neutrinos** per cubic meter of space.<sup>48</sup> These provide a continuous ‘substrate’ or matrix of rotating photon field distortions at every point in space, through which every photon must propagate.

**Relativity:** According to Albert Einstein’s Special Theory of Relativity, published in 1905, the **speed of light** is always constant for every observer, no matter their environment or how fast they are traveling relative to the **light**. The consequence of this is that other perceptions become distorted in order to maintain this absolute. One example is that **time** flows at a different ‘pace’ for observers who are traveling at very different speeds, especially when one or both of these speeds are a significant percentage of the speed of light. That is why high-speed cosmic travelers over large distances will always return

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<sup>47</sup> See Robinson, *How to Build a Universe: Beyond the standard models* (2021), chapter 8-9.

<sup>48</sup> See Robinson, *ibid.* (2021), chapter 11.

home to find they have aged less than those they left behind. Calculating these differences is called a relativistic correction (*see* **Time dilation**). The closer one travels to the speed of light, the more exponentially one's perception of time will differ from those who remain 'stationary' on a planet. Since particles are made of rotating **photons** of light **energy**, these relativistic corrections automatically apply to all matter particles — their 'internal clock,' length, and **mass**.

**Resonance:** (*see* **Harmonic resonance**)

**RNA:** When a section of a strand of **DNA** code is copied for the purpose of making a **protein**, only one strand of the DNA's double helix is copied. The resulting copy is a single molecular strand of nucleic acid called RNA, which stands for *ribonucleic acid*. Like DNA, RNA is a polymer that involves four different nucleotides, except that the thymine (T) nucleotide (found in DNA) is replaced by a uracil (U) nucleotide. RNA therefore contains the letters AUGC (rather than ATGC). It is this RNA **molecule** that attaches to the ribosomes inside cells. It is then read, like a template, in order to assemble the right amino acids in the right order to make the desired protein molecule.

**Robinson Model of Nuclear Binding:** (*see* **Neutron**)

**Robinson Model of Quantum Gravity:** (*see* **Gravity**)

**Rock cycle:** The process by which rocks form and transform. When volcanic lava cools and hardens, it forms **igneous** rock (such as granite). This rock can become weathered and eroded by exposure to wind, water, and living organisms. The eroded bits are known as silt or sediment, and these are typically deposited in layers at the bottom of a body of water. They can become hardened and compacted over geological timescales, pushed deeper into the earth by tectonic activity to form **sedimentary** rock (such as limestone). If sedimentary rock is pushed even deeper, the increasing heat and pressure can partially melt it into a more 'glossy' metamorphic rock (such as marble). Both

sedimentary and metamorphic rock can be exposed to the surface again through tectonic activity, and begin the process of erosion and weathering again. They can also be pushed still deeper into the earth, where they melt back into magma, starting the process over again.

**Root-energy:** Root-energy (as in ‘square-root’ energy) refers to quantities that need to be ‘squared’ in order to represent an **energy** density.<sup>49</sup> These include field-level elements such as **electric field**, **magnetic field**, and the **quantum mechanical** wave function,  $\psi$ .<sup>50</sup>

**Rotating Photon Model:** The rotating **photon** model of matter describes the origin of and physical reasons for properties such as the special **relativity** corrections, why  $E=mc^2$ , the de Broglie wavelength, **chirality**, parity, the distribution of **charge** and **magnetic field**, and more.<sup>51</sup> This model proposes that each subatomic particle is comprised of a photon of the appropriate **energy** completing two revolutions around its double-loop rotation path for every one **wavelength**. In the **electron** (and **positron**), this double-loop rotation is toroidal. In the much more massive **proton** and **neutron**, they involve more complex **harmonics**. The double-loop rotation is the source of a particle’s half-integral **spin** ( $\frac{1}{2}\hbar$ ). This model is proposed by John G. Williamson, Martin B. van der Mark, as well as Vivian N.E. Robinson. (See **Sub-Quantum Mechanics and Electron**.)

**S.T.E.M.:** An acronym, used in education, to refer to the subjects Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Some like to include the Arts as equally essential to a well-rounded education, which yields the acronym S.T.E.A.M.

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<sup>49</sup> See Williamson, Benn, Mercury (2022), (see **Magnetism** above).

<sup>50</sup> In **quantum mechanics**, energy density is proportional to  $\psi^\dagger\psi$ .

<sup>51</sup> See Robinson, *How to Build a Universe: Beyond the standard models* (2021), chapter 2-3.

**Sedimentary rock:** A type of rock formed when silt or sediment becomes deposited in layers at the bottom of a body of water, and then these layers become hardened and compacted over geological timescales due to the heat and pressure associated with tectonic activity. Sedimentary rock therefore has a characteristically layered appearance. Sandstone and limestone are examples. (See **Rock cycle**.) Fossils only occur in sedimentary rock.

**Silurian Period:** A geological period on Earth from about 444 million years ago to about 416 million years ago. It falls into the early **Paleozoic** era, and is characterized by mosses and vascular plants, the expansion of **fungi**, and the appearance of terrestrial arthropods.

**Solar system:** The star system in which we Earthlings live. A star system features a central star surrounded by **orbiting** planets, asteroids, comets, and other debris. In the solar system, the Sun is that central star. There are many other star systems in which orbiting planets, **exoplanets**, have been identified.

**Solar wind:** The flow of high-**energy** particles and radiation given off by a star, such as our Sun or **Proxima Centauri**. This material is hot, travels fast, and can be hazardous to organisms and equipment in space. A solar flare (or **star flare**) or a coronal mass ejection (CME) from the Sun can cause a significant surge in the solar wind, and this can cause problems in and around Earth. Solar wind particles also exert pressure, and as such, the use of solar sails has been proposed in order to propel spacecraft. Variations in solar wind<sup>52</sup> conditions, in terms of how they affect Earth, are known as space weather.

**Spacetime:** The fabric of space and **time**, whatever it actually is, has two basic properties that we consider: its **electric permittivity** ( $\epsilon_0$ ) and its **magnetic permeability** ( $\mu_0$ ). The former describes

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<sup>52</sup> Some include the variations in local **cosmic ray** flux.

the extent to which spacetime can hold (or allow the passage of) **electric fields**, and the latter, the same for **magnetic fields**. These properties are intimately related to the **speed of light** ( $c$ ) because light is **electromagnetic** and interacts with space electrically and magnetically. They are related by the equation  $\epsilon_0\mu_0 = 1/c^2$ . **Photons** of light can only travel *because* they interact electrically and magnetically with spacetime. This interaction resists their passage, and therefore gives light a finite speed. The term spacetime alludes to the fact that space and time are part of the same dynamic — inseparable — even though we tend to think of them as separate. Spacetime is also distorted by the presence of **mass**, which gives rise to **gravity**. **Relativity** describes how space and time appear to become distorted under certain conditions so that the speed of light appears constant to every observer in every reference frame.

For the more technical and mathematically minded: It is interesting to note that different forms of **root-energy** interact with spacetime in different ways.<sup>53</sup> The three variables of space are  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , and the one variable of time is  $t$ . Spacetime is therefore 4-dimensional:  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ ,  $t$  (and their inverses). The underlying nature of electric field is that it is a (3-component) flow, a rate of change of space by time ( $dx/dt$ ,  $dy/dt$  and  $dz/dt$ ), like velocity. The underlying nature of the (three component) magnetic field is that it is a twist, a rate of change of space by perpendicular space ( $dx/dy$ ,  $dy/dz$  and  $dz/dx$ ). No  $t$ . It makes things go round in a circle. **Angular momentum (spin)** is a rate of change of momentum with respect to perpendicular space, taking the form  $(d/dx)(dy/dt)$ .

**Space weather:** (*see Solar wind*)

**Spectroscope:** A device for measuring and analyzing **light**. It is a very important tool for identifying chemical **elements** and **molecules**, and is consequently of great use not only in chemistry and physics, but also in astronomy. Specific **atoms**

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<sup>53</sup> See Williamson, Benn, Mercury (2022)

and molecules interact (resonate) with light **energy** in very specific ways — at very precise energies — and therefore at characteristic **frequencies**. As such, the light that is absorbed or emitted by a substance or by an astronomical body can provide us with detailed information about its chemical makeup.

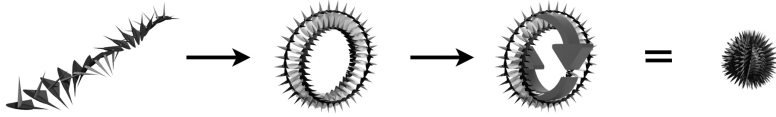
**Speed of light ( $c$ ):** Light (**electromagnetic radiation**) travels at a speed of 299,792,458 meters per second (in free space), which is about 671 million miles per hour. According to Einstein's Special Theory of **Relativity**, the speed of **light** appears constant to every observer, no matter where they are or how fast they are traveling. The speed of light is defined according to how fast it travels through **spacetime** (*see above*), and in relation to the properties of spacetime (according to the equation  $c^2=1/\epsilon_0\mu_0$ ). It takes light about 8 and a half minutes to reach Earth from the Sun. It takes reflected sunlight just over 1 second to reach Earth from the Moon.

**Spin:** According to both the **Williamson-van der Mark** and **Robinson models**, subatomic particles have spin because they are made of a self-confined **photon** of light traveling in a circle, a double-loop rotation, at the **speed of light** (*see electron*). This is **angular momentum** at the **quantum** level, and results in a half-integral spin of  $\frac{1}{2}\hbar$ .<sup>54</sup> In the case of a **charged** particle, such as the electron, the (circularly polarized) photon of light making up the particle also has an intrinsic (integral) spin (of  $\hbar$ ) because its fields spiral around its axis as it travels. According to the Williamson-van der Mark model,<sup>55</sup> electrons may also contain a third level of angular momentum, since the photon's intrinsic spin will cause the ring-shaped toroidal structure to tumble in order to conserve angular momentum (depending on external **magnetic fields**). The following diagram shows the 3 components of the electron's quantum spin, along with the overall spherical consequence of it.

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<sup>54</sup> See **H-bar**.

<sup>55</sup> See Williamson (2019).



According to the Robinson model,<sup>56</sup> only charged particles have intrinsic photon spin because they are made of circularly-polarized photons. Neutral particles contain plane-polarized photons, and their angular momentum therefore arises entirely from their photon's double-loop rotation.

**Star flare** (or solar flare): It occurs when the light and radiation emitted by a star experience a sudden increase in intensity. They are believed to be caused by the release of **energy** resulting from a process known as **magnetic** reconnection.

**Starboard side**: The right side of a boat or aircraft when facing forward. It derives from the old English term for “steering side.” Centuries ago, before central rudders, ships were steered from the rear with a steering oar. It was located on the right side of the ship since most people would use their right hand to do the steering while facing forward.

**Sub-quantum mechanics**: An absolute relativistic **quantum mechanics** that does not begin with the particle as an axiom but investigates the **rotating photon** substructure that gives rise to its properties. It is built upon the theory of absolute **relativity** forwarded by John G. Williamson<sup>57</sup> and Martin B. van der Mark, and is encapsulated in the Williamson equation<sup>58</sup>  $\mathcal{D}_\mu \Xi_G = 0$ , where  $\mathcal{D}_\mu$  is a Dirac-Clifford four-vector derivative, and  $\Xi_G$  is

<sup>56</sup> See Robinson, *How to Build a Universe: Beyond the standard models* (2021), chapter 3.

<sup>57</sup> See Williamson (2019); See also Martin B. van der Mark, John G. Williamson, “Relativistic Inversion, Invariance and Inter-Action,” *Symmetry* 2021, 13, 1117. <https://doi.org/10.3390/sym13071117>

<sup>58</sup> Pronounced “D-mu ksi-G equals zero.”

**root-energy** in all sixteen of its **spacetime** forms, including a Lorentz-invariant scalar ‘point’ **mass-energy**.

**Supernova:** The extremely bright explosion of an old star. It sends large amounts of high **energy radiation** and **cosmic rays** out into the universe. It is believed to have several possible causes, the primary two being the **gravitational** collapse (implosion) of the core of a massive star that is exhausting its hydrogen (fusion fuel), or a white dwarf star in which fusion is re-ignited. It is believed that, during a supernova, many lighter **atomic elements** become fused into larger ones, and this is the process by which the elements of the **periodic table** are formed.

**Temperature:** A measure of the average kinetic (movement) **energy** of the particles in a substance. The higher the temperature, the faster the **atoms** or **molecules** move or vibrate. A solid melts if its temperature increase to the point where the energy of movement of its particles becomes too large for their bonds to hold them in place, and they begin to ‘flow’ past one another. Absolute Zero, a temperature of zero **kelvin** (0K or  $-273^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), represents a theoretical state in which all particle movement has stopped. Water freezes at  $+273\text{K}$  (or  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), and boils at  $373\text{K}$  ( $100^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). The Sun’s surface temperature is about  $5,800\text{K}$ , but its **corona** has a temperature exceeding a million degrees.

**Time** (*t*): A quantity measured in terms of the regular vibrations or oscillations — the **frequency** — of a **harmonic** system. Typical examples include using a complete revolution of the Earth around the Sun to designate a year, a complete rotation of the Earth on its axis to designate a day, or the vibrations of a cesium **atom** in an atomic clock to designate a second. The reason that time is measured in seconds (*sec*) is because frequency is measured in “per second”s (*1/sec*), and a wave’s duration is the inverse of how frequently it occurs. Time is also not a separate ‘thing,’ but is intimately interconnected with the concept of space (*see spacetime*). Since all **radiation** and matter in the



universe are made of **photons**,<sup>59</sup> and since all photons are **energy** waves of a specific frequency traveling at the **speed of light**, **Relativity** will affect our perception of frequency, and therefore our perception of the flow of time.

**Time dilation:** When an observer is moving at **relativistic** speed, which is a speed that is some meaningful percentage of the **speed of light**, they will perceive the passage of **time** differently than people who are not traveling with them. The equation that shows how much time passes for one ( $t$ ) relative to the other ( $t_0$ ) uses the speed of light ( $c$ ) compared to the observer's traveling speed ( $v$ ) in the equation:

$$t = \frac{t_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

Example: How much time will you experience if you are traveling from Earth to **Proxima Centauri**, a distance of 4.2465 **light years**, at a speed ( $v$ ) of 99.88% the speed of light? While those remaining on Earth will observe the journey to take  $t=4.2465/0.9988 = 4.2516$  years, the high-speed traveller will have their experience of time dilated, and they will observe their journey taking:  $4.2516=t_0\div\sqrt{(1-0.9988^2)}$ , so  $t_0=0.208$  years or 76 days or 2.5 months, each way. For every such trip you take, you will arrive home 8 biological years younger than the observers waiting for you on Earth.

**Titan:** The largest moon of Saturn, and the second largest moon in the **solar system** after **Ganymede**. It is the only solar system moon known to have a dense **atmosphere**, which is made up of mostly nitrogen ( $N_2$ ) along with various hydrocarbons.

**Wavelength:** The distance from the beginning of one wave to the beginning of the next — the length of one complete cycle of a

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<sup>59</sup> According to the **rotating photon model** of matter.

wave. With **electromagnetic** (light) waves, when wavelength ( $\lambda$ ) increases, **frequency** ( $\nu$ ) decreases, and vice versa. This is because the **speed of light** ( $c$ ) is constant, and the three are related by the equation  $c=\lambda\nu$ . Wavelengths become stretched under a **redshift** and compressed under a **blueshift**.

**Williamson-van der Mark Model:** The **rotating photon** model of the **electron**,<sup>60</sup> proposed by John G. Williamson<sup>61</sup> (*CERN/Philips/Glasgow University*) and Martin B. van der Mark<sup>62</sup> (*Philips*). It features an absolute relativistic **sub-quantum mechanics** reflected in the Williamson equation  $\mathcal{D}_\mu \Xi_G = 0$ , where  $\mathcal{D}_\mu$  is a Dirac-Clifford four-vector derivative, and  $\Xi_G$  is **root-energy** in all sixteen of its **spacetime** forms, including a Lorentz-invariant scalar 'point' **mass-energy**.

**Zero-G:** A state in which no **gravity** is felt by a body, and when all external forces acting on it are in balance. This can occur when it is stationary or moving at a constant velocity. (Gravitation is an accelerating force, but there is no acceleration when a body is moving at a constant velocity.) As a result, when all external forces acting on a body are in balance, it experiences weightlessness because it is not being pulled preferentially in any direction, relative to its immediate environment. It is therefore as if there is no force of gravity acting on the body. Weightlessness is experienced, for example, (a) when one is traveling at a constant velocity in space, though nowhere near any large masses, or (b) when one is in a state of free fall or **orbit** around a planet, or (c) when one is in a movie industry airplane that is in a parabolic dive designed to simulate zero-G

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<sup>60</sup> See Williamson, van der Mark (1997); Williamson (2019); van der Mark (2019) cited above (*see electron*).

<sup>61</sup> <https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=z2tP0y4AAAAJ>

<sup>62</sup> <https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=0jByzgoAAAAJ>

for a movie shoot.<sup>63</sup> If a weightless floating object is bumped or pushed, this new imbalance of forces will cause it to move, and keep moving, until some other force or object causes it to stop or move differently. (*See also* **Newton's third law.**)

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<sup>63</sup> Ron Howard used this technique to film several scenes in the movie "Apollo 13."