

Notes for Non-scientist Reading PN&NP

- 1 This is a foundational chapter for appreciating the scientific-notation numbers used throughout the book. The fundamentals of probability must also be understood. This chapter will be a breeze if you're strong in math, but may take an extraordinary time if you're "math challenged."
- 2 This chapter builds on chapter 1's concepts to clarify terms related to probability (possible, probable, feasible). Understanding chapters 1-2 will result in a fairly good understanding of "probability's nature." Other topics, such as information theory, make use of more complex expressions of that nature, but those details needn't be completely comprehended.
- 3 The coverage of the speculations for the origin of mass and energy can be used to balance what one often encounters on that topic. One can skip those speculations (to p21) to the empirically detectable fine-tuning of the constants and properties which serves as ID evidence.
- 4 This chapter should give an appreciation for the complexities of even "simple" life, but needn't be thoroughly understood. The terms that will be used in the following chapters include amino acid, protein, enzyme, DNA, RNA, gene, genome, nucleotide/base, codon, chirality, and cell.
- 5 A critique of the origin-of-life scenarios should provide information that usually is missing in presenting those scenarios. Undirected natural processes are shown to have an extremely low probability of generating life from non-life.
- 6 The concept of information, the types of information, and information's expression and communication are covered. The complex information and information processing systems within life are shown, based on information science, to have zero probability of arising by undirected processes (which rules out undirected natural processes as life's source).
- 7 The mechanisms of biological evolution are evaluated from both physical and informational sciences. This chapter is particularly important for evaluating the plausibility of evolutionary scenarios.
- 8 This chapter highlights the conflict between undirected naturalism and ID, particularly the prevalent misconceptions about ID. Most will find this to be "easy-reading" because of its non-technical nature. Some may want to read this before reading the more technical chapters to get a clear understanding of the issues involved with ID before investigating the details of why ID provides a better model of many observations than does undirected naturalism.
- 9 The final chapter is also non-technical, and clarifies characteristics of ID and the benefits of ID to science.