

It's Not Just Science Fiction Anymore

Diving Down the Rabbit Hole

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IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE — like something out of *Back to the Future* — but scientists now widely agree that parallel universes actually exist, and may be linked by rabbit holes, or passageways between alternate realities. Not just a few of them, either, but an infinite number of parallel universes, some likely containing alternate versions of ourselves. Even more surprisingly, some scientists theorize that these other realities exist mere millimeters from our own, and gravity “is just a weak signal leaking out of another universe into ours,” according to physicist Dr. Michio Kaku, author of *Parallel Worlds: A Journey Through Creation, Higher Dimensions, and the Future of the Cosmos*, and co-creator of the string field theory of physics. Dr. Kaku, among others, has noted that the advent of superstring theory, combined with new knowledge about hyperspace and dark matter, led physicists to conclude that our universe is comprised of far more than three dimensions — in fact, we live in 11 dimensions.

It's heady stuff, but well grounded in the laws of physics as they are currently understood. Currently, science is looking to solve the M theory (which perhaps might one day turn out to be the long-sought Theory of Everything) to better understand the creation and annihilation of universes like ours, which are believed to behave like bubbles, rippling in waves and bumping against each other in the 11th dimension. Today's quantum physics — that is, physics at the atomic and subatomic level — is grounded in the work of scientists like John Mitchell, who in 1783 was the first to speculate about the existence of black holes, Albert Einstein and Nathan Rosen, who together theorized that bridges exist between black holes and mirror universes on the other side, and Stephen Hawking, who popularized the idea that these bridges may exist in wormholes (or, rabbit holes) so small, not even atoms could pass through. •

— Notes by Ilana M. Brownstein