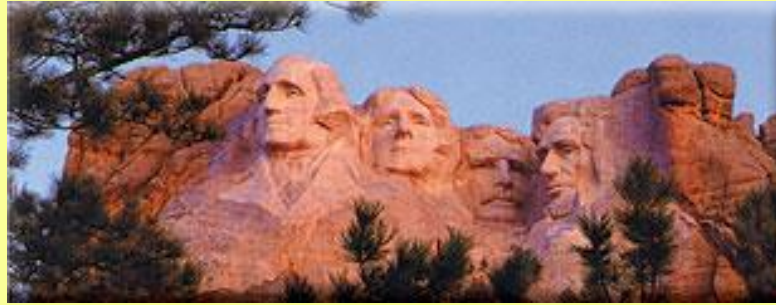


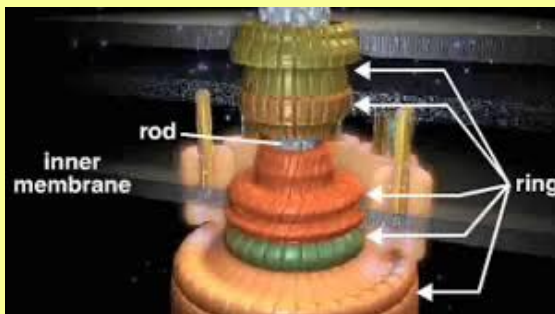
Philosophy of Science:

A few important aspects

If it is appropriate to ask whether intelligence was involved in the origin of these objects, ...



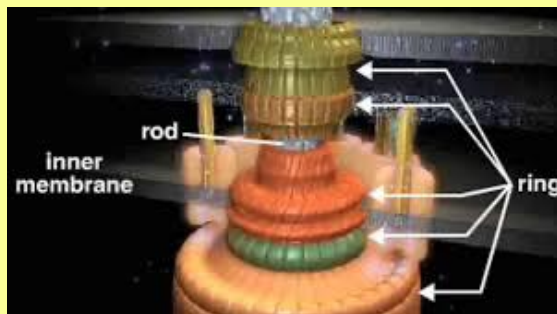
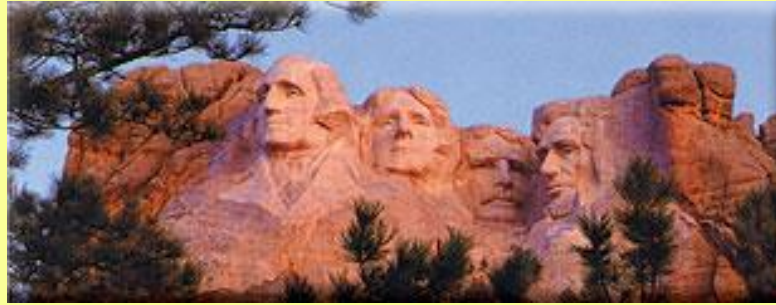
... then why not also for these objects?



		2nd base in codon					
		U	C	A	G		
1st base in codon	U	Phe Phe Leu	Ser Ser Ser	Tyr Tyr STOP	Cys Cys STOP	U C A G	3rd base in codon
	C	Leu Leu Leu	Pro Pro Pro	His His Gln	Arg Arg Arg	U C C A	
	A	Ile Ile Ile Met	Thr Thr Thr	Asn Asn Lys Lys	Ser Ser Arg Arg	U C A G	
G	Val Val Val Val	Ala Ala Ala Ala	Asp Asp Glu Glu	Gly Gly Gly Gly	U C C A	G A C G	



These all seem to be examples of informational discontinuities (specified complexity beyond the reach of chance)



2nd base in codon

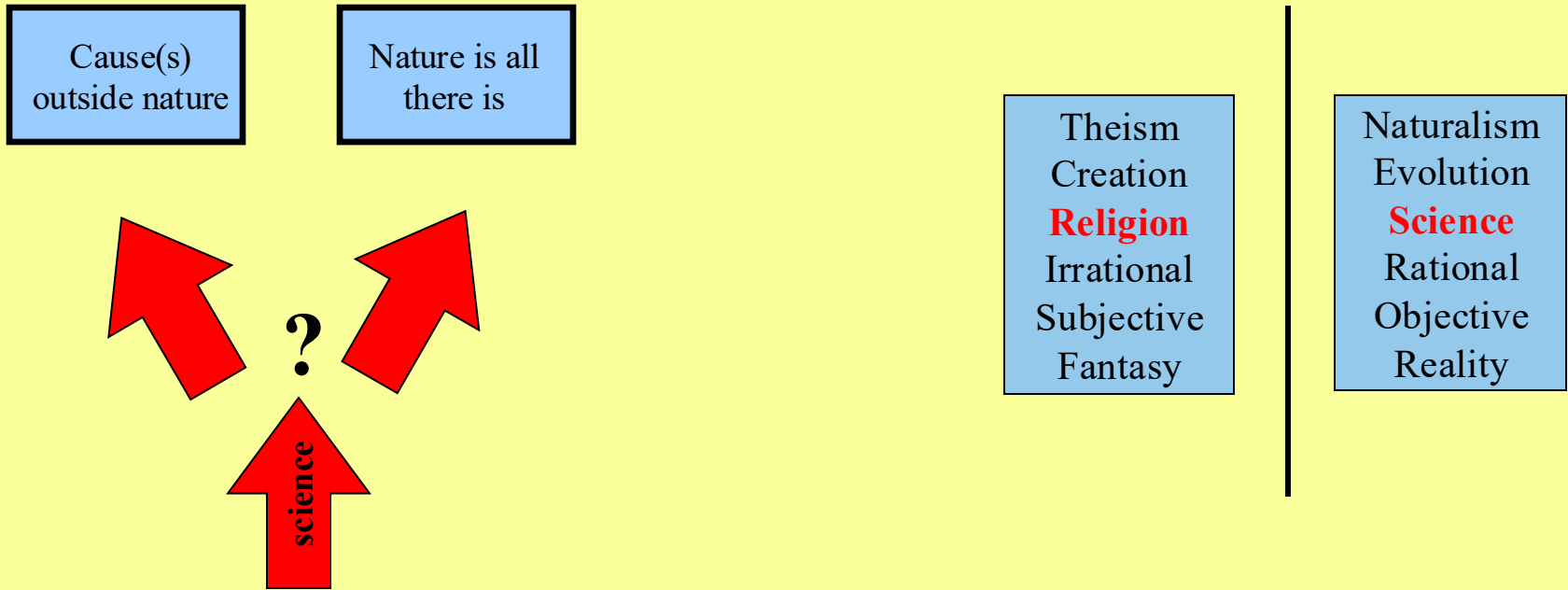
	U	C	A	G	
U	Phe Phe Leu Leu	Ser Ser Ser Ser	Tyr Tyr STOP STOP	Cys Cys STOP Trp	U C A G
C	Leu Leu Leu Leu	Pro Pro Pro Pro	His His Gln Gln	Arg Arg Arg Arg	U C C A
A	Ile Ile Ile Met	Thr Thr Thr Thr	Asn Asn Lys Lys	Ser Ser Arg Arg	U C A G
G	Val Val Val Val	Ala Ala Ala Ala	Asp Asp Glu Glu	Gly Gly Gly Gly	U C C A

1st base in codon

3rd base in codon



Two perspectives



We're all on the side of science!

**It is possible for science to point to design
by a cause outside of nature**

(Nature = matter/energy, spacetime, natural laws)

Science can only be on one side!

**Inferring design from outside nature
is always unscientific**

**explanatory
tools**

**Intelligence or mind
(mind beyond nature,
humans, aliens)**

+

**laws of nature
and chance**

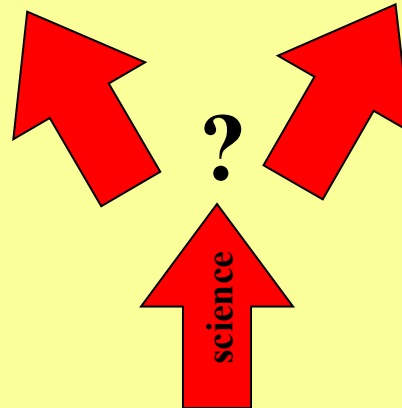
Cause(s)
outside nature

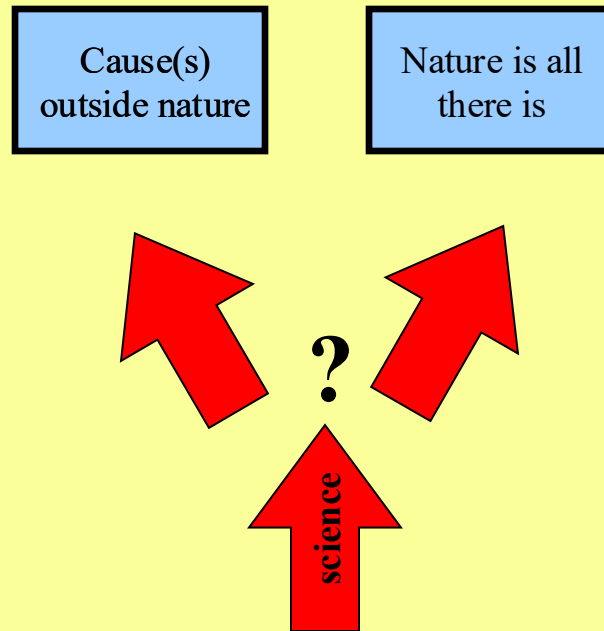
**Intelligence or mind
(humans, aliens)**

+

**laws of nature
and chance**

Nature is all
there is





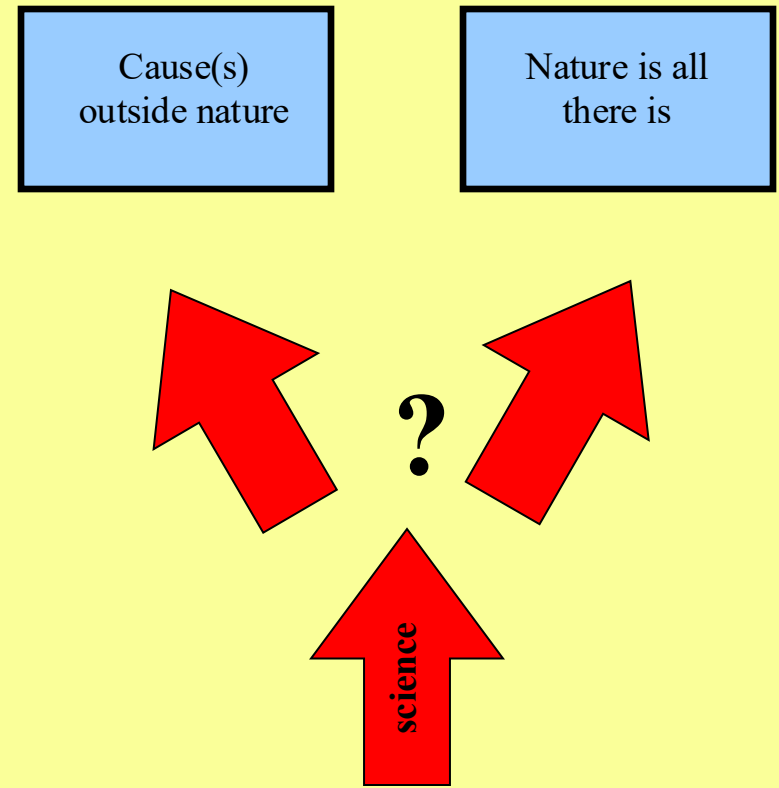
What can a mind do that laws of nature and chance cannot do?

**Plan or engineer or design, think ahead,
arrange parts purposefully, fix values of
constants, conceive of laws or patterns or
principles**

Distinguishing science from naturalistic philosophy

“... we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counterintuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.”

Richard Lewontin, *New York Review of Books*, Jan. 9, 1997.



Richard Lewontin did not have this perspective

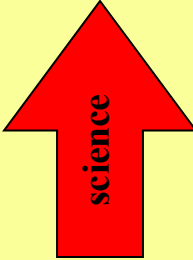
Distinguishing science from naturalistic philosophy

“... we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counterintuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.”

Richard Lewontin, *New York Review of Books*, Jan. 9, 1997.

What’s wrong with a Divine Foot in the door?
Whose job is it to decide that for the rest of society?
Who is we?
What does “cannot allow” mean?

Nature is all there is

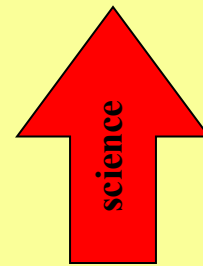


Richard Lewontin’s perspective

Distinguishing science from naturalistic philosophy

Nature is all
there is

**Methodological
Naturalism**



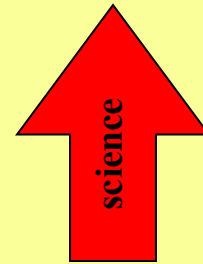
Distinguishing science from naturalistic philosophy

Google AI overview:

Methodological naturalism is a philosophical doctrine that states that scientific explanations should only use natural causes, and should not reference God or other divine activity. It's a convention of science that aims to make science religiously neutral and separate from theology

**What do you think about this?
Is it religiously neutral?**

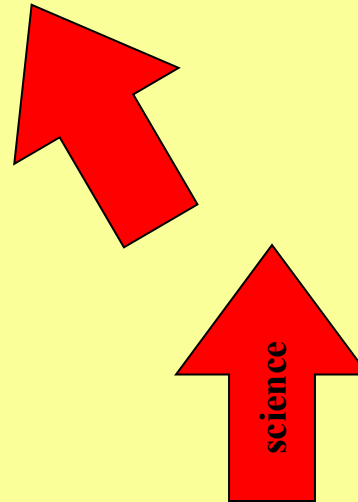
Nature is all
there is



Distinguishing science from naturalistic philosophy

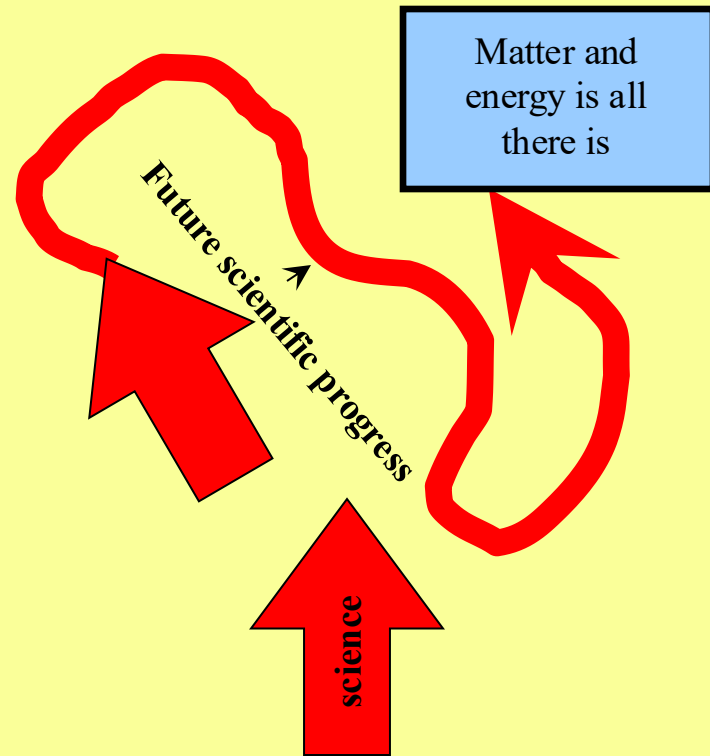
Matter and energy is all there is

If materialism is not true,
then one must choose
between the **impossible**
and the **unthinkable**

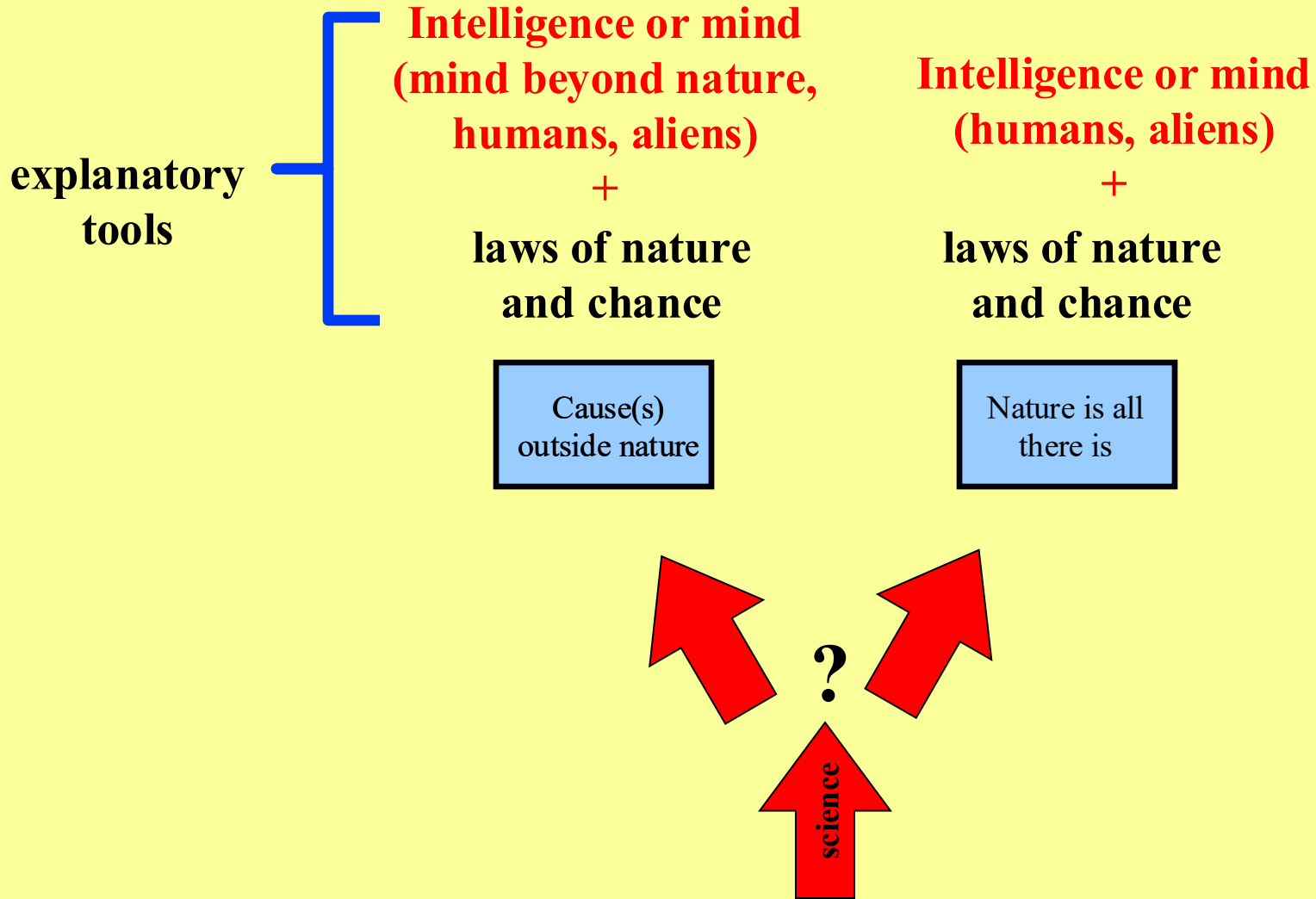


Distinguishing science from naturalistic philosophy

Faced with a choice between the **impossible** and the **unthinkable**, a committed naturalist chooses the impossible and hopes (has faith) that naturalistic solutions will eventually be found.



If a mind was involved, then one could never discover the truth!



Challenge: bias can exist on both sides

Example of Bias Within Materialism

"Even if all the data point to an intelligent designer, such an hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic."

S. C. Todd, Nature, 410:(6752): 423, 1999.

Theism
Religion
Irrational
Subjective
Fantasy

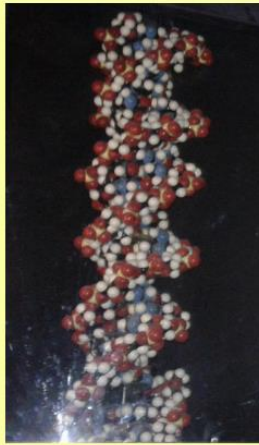
Materialism
Science
Rational
Objective
Reality

Science can only be on one side!

The data are irrelevant!!

Example of Bias Within Materialism

New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science



Gas + energy = DNA \longrightarrow LIFE

**Belief in materialism leads to
misrepresentation of the data of science!!**

Bias Within Theism

Theists can adopt beliefs based on their traditions or sacred writings and hold them regardless of the data of science

**The data of science can be
trumped by beliefs!!**

Example of Bias Within Theism

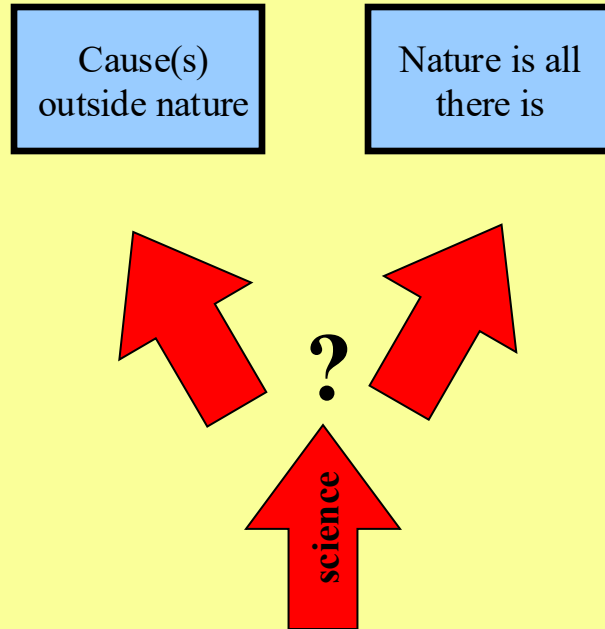
Psalm 93:1. Yes, the world is established. It shall never be moved

Psalm 96:10 ... the world is established, it shall never be moved

Psalm 104:5 He sets the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved.

Some Christians throughout history believed in geocentrism based on these and other passages in the bible

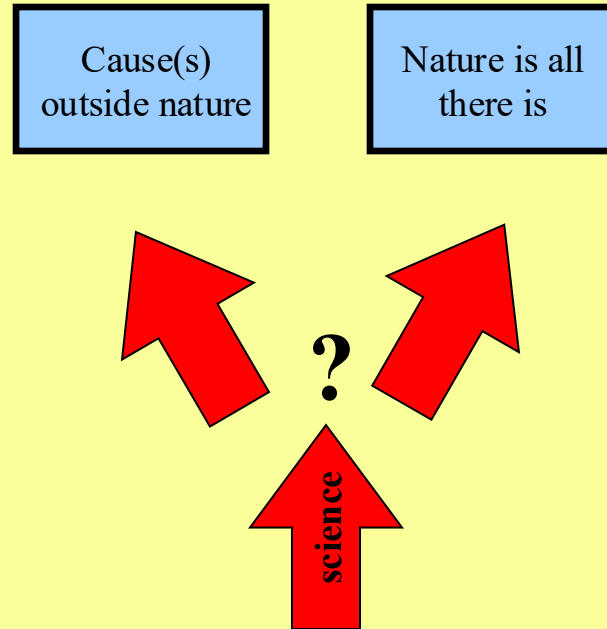
The data of science can be trumped by beliefs!!



When speaking about science, let the data of science be the arbiter!

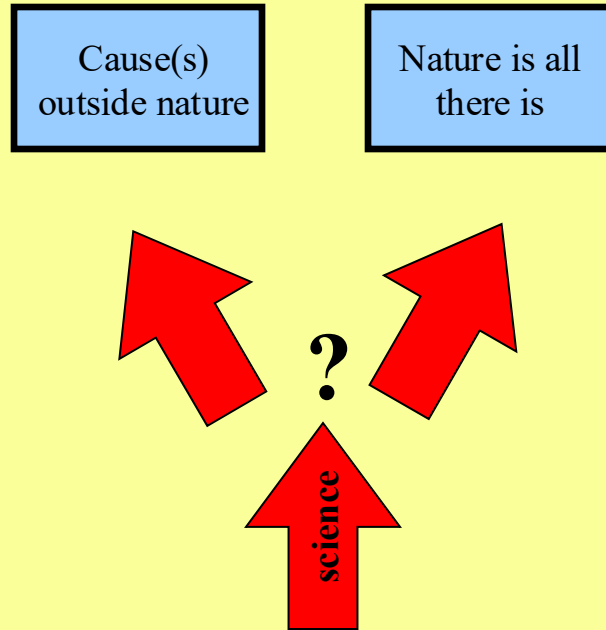
“Experiment is the sole judge of scientific truth” R. Feynman

(many people of all viewpoints support this)



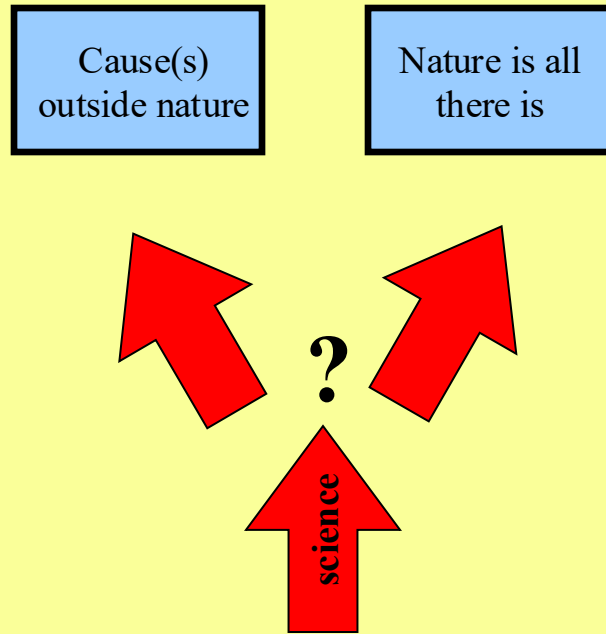
**When speaking about science, let the data of science
be the arbiter!**

**This is the perspective of Intelligent Design proponents
(Discovery Institute)**



Can science function if we allow both possibilities?

Will science be better served if we allow both possibilities?



God of the gaps vs. inference to the best explanation

Genetic information is exactly the same (mathematically equivalent) as in a written language – NOT AN ANALOGY