

How to Predict Future Duration from Present Age

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Abstract

Physicist J. Richard Gott has given an argument that, if good, allows one to make accurate predictions for the future longevity of a process, based solely on its present age. We show that there are problems with some of the details of Gott's argument, but we defend the crucial insight: in many circumstances, the greater the present age of a process, the more likely a longer future duration.

Keywords: Copernican principle, delta t argument, doomsday argument, Jeffreys prior, scale invariance, location invariance, Elliott Sober, Nick Bostrom, Ken Olum, Carleton Caves

Subjects: [Specific Sciences: Probability/Statistics](#)
[General Issues: Decision Theory](#)

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