

The Drake Equation

$$N = R_* f_p n_e f_l f_i f_c L$$

N = Number of civilizations communicating with us now!

R_* = Star formation rate in Galaxy (number of stars/year)

f_p = Fraction of stars with planets

n_e = Number of habitable planets per star

f_l = Fraction of stars with planets that will develop life

f_i = Fraction of stars with life that develop intelligent life

f_c = Fraction of intelligent civilizations wanting to communicate

L = Duration (in years) that the civilization remains communicative