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