

Is reality digital or analog?

Something Else of Course!

The question itself demonstrates a process that is contained within human experience. We ask questions and we expect valid answers. The assumption of value concerning the discovery and acceptance of the correct answer is also contained within human experience. It will advance the human study of physics. The environment of human experience is the “reality” that is defined within the question.

So what do we start with in our search for the answer? We require an assumed template for human experience. That is one huge and fragile assumption! Breaking down the protocol of creating a controlled environment, making consistent and accurate observations and then creating the model of understanding that results in an increased accuracy for predicting future results in similar circumstances is a digital process. Boundaries, steps, categories and either/or judgments are a necessary part of it.

When the learning process is applied to objects, forces and relationships that exist in order to model an understanding of what exists we are contained within a digital survival definition of existence. Existence equates to the number one and non existence equates to the number zero. Applying this understanding to the question “what is it” is the common foundation for our many mapping models of our existing universe. They are models that are based on identifying all of the ones within human experience.

What is significant in this observation is that the ones are actually a minor listing that is derived from the astronomical list of what could exist but does not exist...all of the zeroes within human existence. In fact everything comes from the list of zeroes. The ones evolve from the zeroes. And this is where we catch a glimpse of a fundamental problem...we cannot use a list of ones to establish a derived understanding of why something exists. Understanding why something exists must come from applying the learning process to all of the zeroes within human existence. So an explanation of the origin of all existence must be based on an understanding that comes from studying the list of zeroes within human existence.

To pose the question is reality digital or analog is equivalent to asking is reality the ones in human existence or the zeroes in human existence. We already “intuitively” know that studying the ones allows us to ask the question “what is it” and to answer the question within a valid process. Studying the zeroes would allow us to ask the question “why is it” and to answer the question within a valid process. If our purpose is to ask “what is it” and “why is it” we are combining ones and zeroes...linking analog to digital and this seems to more accurately describe the varied nature of human existence. We seek to survive within a meaningful environment.

The zeroes are contained within an analog environment because they are continuously evolving into ones. This is the foundational statement for beginning to understand the list of zeroes. It is continuously changing. There is a possible confusion that is addressed at this point. The list of

ones is also continuously changing. But the change is actually only a transition from a one to another one. When a zero becomes a one it remains a one forever. The transition from zero to one is where potential becomes possibility, where nothing becomes something and our preoccupation with the list of ones has kept us ignorant of this most magical process. Our challenge for the future is to begin a focused study of the list of zeroes and to suspend the acceptance of an answer to the question of why until we can collectively demonstrate that we understand the list of zeroes.

Being human, however, I am prepared to offer an immediate and ignorant response to the question. Since the future belongs to many and not just one I would answer that the meaningful response is analog while the survival response is digital. Hopefully human existence will evolve to include both survival and meaningfulness. So reality within human terms is and will also be described as both digital and analog. Insisting that it is more of one than the other insists on valuing one more than the other. The choice would be survival or meaningfulness. This choice has long been a consistent theme of human history.

I leave the final “educated” answer to future generations. I trust that they will discover an acceptable answer to the combined question of “what is it” and “why is it” within an environment of diverse human experience that is also within a future reality. It would be a reality from which the answer to the question could be more accurately derived. And now the fun begins...is the answer to the question the same if it is being asked once or continuously? Wouldn't the advancement of knowledge and environmental awareness continuously modify the continuous answer?