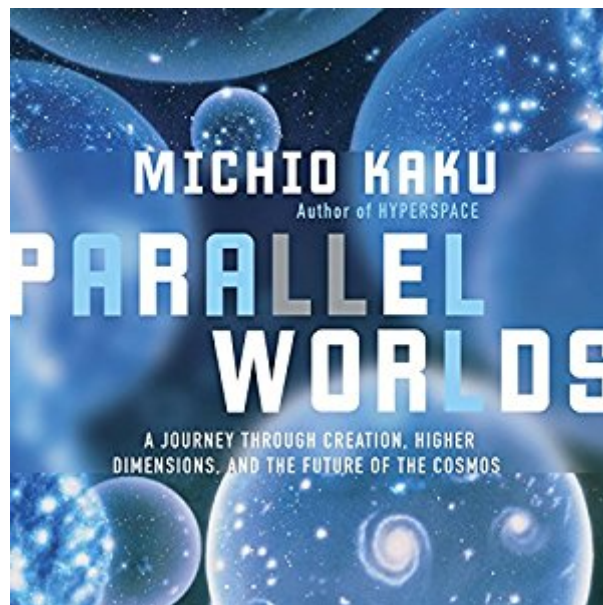




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Parallel Worlds: A Journey Through Creation, Higher Dimensions, And The Future Of The Cosmos



Synopsis

Is our universe dying? Could there be other universes? In *Parallel Worlds*, world-renowned physicist and best-selling author Michio Kaku - an author who "has a knack for bringing the most ethereal ideas down to earth" (Wall Street Journal) - takes listeners on a fascinating tour of cosmology, M-theory, and its implications for the fate of the universe. In his first book of physics since *Hyperspace*, Michio Kaku begins by describing the extraordinary advances that have transformed cosmology over the last century and particularly over the last decade, forcing scientists around the world to rethink our understanding of the birth of the universe and its ultimate fate. In Dr. Kaku's eyes, we are living in a golden age of physics, as new discoveries from the WMAP and COBE satellites and the Hubble space telescope have given us unprecedented pictures of our universe in its infancy. As astronomers wade through the avalanche of data from the WMAP satellite, a new cosmological picture is emerging. So far the leading theory about the birth of the universe is the "inflationary universe theory", a major refinement on the big bang theory. In this theory our universe may be but one in a multiverse, floating like a bubble in an infinite sea of bubble universes, with new universes being created all the time. A parallel universe may well hover a mere millimeter from our own. The very idea of parallel universes and the string theory that can explain their existence was once viewed with suspicion by scientists, seen as the province of mystics, charlatans, and cranks. But today physicists overwhelmingly support string theory and its latest iteration, M-theory, as it is this one theory that, if proven correct, would reconcile the four forces of the universe simply and elegantly and answer the question "what happened before the big bang?" Already, Kaku explains, the world's foremost physicists and astronomers are searching for ways to test the theory of the multiverse using highly sophisticated wave detectors, gravity lenses, satellites, and telescopes. The implications of M-theory are fascinating and endless. If parallel worlds do exist, Kaku speculates, in time - perhaps a trillion years or more from now, as appears likely - when our universe grows cold and dark in what scientists describe as a big freeze, advanced civilizations may well find a way to escape our universe in a kind of "interdimensional lifeboat". An unforgettable journey into black holes and time machines, alternate universes, and multidimensional space, *Parallel Worlds* gives us a compelling portrait of the revolution sweeping the world of cosmology.

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Customer Reviews

Since I am a layperson and a non-scientist, this book took me several weeks to read. It was well worth the time. Professor Kaku addresses issues in cosmology thoroughly but with great clarity. Each chapter drew me further into pondering the origins of the universe, the possible existence of parallel universes, and the issues raised by these reflections about the future of humanity. As a Christian, I especially appreciated his reflections about the meaning of life and his unbiased and inclusive thoughts about the relevance of religion to cosmology. Highly recommended.

The book had a lot of great stuff, however it was like listening to someone who overstates things. It was as if he needed to explain everything. A condensed version would be great

If you're interested in quantum theory, and multiple worlds ideas, this is a pretty informative and interesting read. Michio Kaku is clever and engaging to read, but I will admit that this book took me some long periods of 'picking up and putting down' to get through. The material is not simple, but it is presented in relateable ways for the most part. Good stuff.

Michio Kaku has really hit this book out of the park. This was a very thought provoking and excellent read. I really love how Michio can take very complex and deep concepts and explain them in plain English to where anyone can understand them.

Not as good as Michio Kaku's "Hyperspace", but I'm comparing legendary to life-changing.

I think it was Niels Bohr, the great Danish physicist, who told his fellow scientists many years ago

that they had an obligation to try to enlighten laymen about the latest findings of science. This was not long after Einstein's theories of relativity and the development of quantum mechanics had demonstrated that the world in which we live and thrive was much stranger than previously thought. The comfortable and intuitive cosmos, as described by Newtonian mechanics, had been superceded by a world view that seemed not only bizarre, but even incomprehensible. This new book by Michio Kaku is one of the latest efforts by leading-edge scientists to fulfill that felt need recognized by Bohr. Targeting the educated layman, Kaku addresses his audience in a manner that is both entertaining and non-intimidating. Instead of mathematical descriptions, he relies on everyday analogies to convey his meanings. He includes a good measure of the history behind the theories, spiced with anecdotes and humor. While tackling an inheritantly difficult subject matter, he has succeeded in making it about as accessible as it could possibly be for a lay audience. I emphasize that this is an up-to-date account. Just a few years ago, some physicists were merely speculating about the possibilities of multiple universes, parallel worlds, time travel, worm holes...things that sounded then more like science fiction than fact. Data only recently acquired by the WMAP satellite and the rapid development of string theory (and its latest incarnation, M-theory) have caused many of the best minds to not only entertain the possibility of such phenomena but, in many cases, consider them necessary corollaries to any credible Grand Unified Theory (i.e., a "theory of everything.") According to Kaku, we're getting very close to such a theory. This is heady stuff, presented in a form that makes science fiction, the ramblings of mystics, and the wildest conjectures of amateur cosmologists seem dull by comparison. And it is offered to us by a man who is at the forefront of current physics, a leading theorist in string theory and, most notably, a man who is an expert in assuring that his speculations are not in conflict with known facts. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in what science knows today about the past history and nature of our cosmos and what the future may hold. It's an absolutely fascinating read!

a+++++++ great seller great product

This book is basically in three major sections: an intriguing and highly readable exposition of the ideas relating to the title; a more complex (for me, anyway) explication of the physics and math processes used to explore the concepts; and a grand blend of cosmology and exhilaration that reads almost metaphysically. The only reason I can't give this work five stars is that it is several years old and not quite current in the research (i.e., the hypothetical medium that may separate multiple universes is referred to as "the bulk" in newer work, but is not so named here.) I also was

left with a question: Kaku discusses the idea that multiple universes may have physical laws totally alien to our experience, but later speculates about how, perhaps, we could cross the chasm. Would it be prudent even to try entering another universe, not knowing what to expect? Aside from this minor point, I found Kaku's enthusiasm infectious and, as his TV appearances prove, his communicative ability is impressive. Popular science's worthy successor to Asimov, perhaps?

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