UFOs

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As of 9 April 2023, astronomers have discovered 5,322 exoplanets (planets outside our solar system). (NASA Exoplanet Archive) One astronomer has suggested that there are probably more planets in the universe than grains of sand on Earth. That bodes well for the existence of extraterrestrial life. Expect contact any day!

But there’s another view of the matter. Suppose there are 100 billion planets. Suppose only 100 million can support life (by being in the Goldilocks zone [not too hot, not too cold], being the right size, having liquid water, etc.). Suppose only 1 million life-bearing planets have developed technological civilizations. Probability would have it that those civilizations form a bell curve, from very primitive (e.g., us before the Neolithic Revolution) to very advanced (us a million years from now).

Why have no advanced civilizations contacted us indubitably (beyond a reasonable doubt)?

Perhaps we are at the extreme right tip of the bell curve, among the first civilizations to develop advanced technology, and therefore few others exist yet.

Or perhaps they *have* contacted us and have decided, “Umm . . . No thanks.”

Or perhaps . . . we are alone in the Universe. Let us hope we do not blow it.