

SETI in the Twenty-First Century
The implications of new astronomical research
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ABSTRACT

Who hasn't gazed at the distant suns populating the night sky and wondered? For as long as we humans could think, we have thought about the stars and the spectacular, mysterious vistas the heavens presented to us each night. Today, the average person staring up at the beauty of the unfolding universe, might muse about how life began, whether there is other life out there, and if other distant beings share our awareness of the larger universe. Does other life and intelligence exist among this sea of stars in which we live? Many people think so. If we think deeply about these things, we might speculate on the origin, frequency and variety of life in our galaxy. We might also ask, how rare is intelligence and what are the fates and life spans of technological civilizations.