

The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) has for 60 years attempted to solve Fermi's paradox: if intelligent life is relatively common in the universe, where is everybody? Examining SETI through this lens, this volume summarises current thinking on the prevalence of intelligent life in the universe and discusses 66 distinct solutions to the so-called paradox. It describes the methodology of SETI and how many disciplines feed into the debate, from physics and biology, to philosophy and anthropology. The presented solutions are organised into three key groups: rare-Earth solutions, suggesting that planetary habitability, life and intelligence are uncommon; catastrophist solutions, arguing that civilisations do not survive long enough to make contact; and non-empirical solutions, which take theoretical approaches, such as that our methodology is flawed. This comprehensive introduction to SETI concludes by looking at the future of the field and speculating on humanity's potential fate.

Duncan H. Forgan is Associate Lecturer at the Centre for Exoplanet Science at the University of St Andrews. He is a founding member of the UK SETI research network and leads UK research efforts into the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. His work includes simulations of civilisation evolution, developing observables of intelligence and policy for post-detection scenarios.

The **Cambridge Astrobiology** series aims to facilitate the communication of recent advances in astrobiology and to foster the development of scientists conversant in the wide array of disciplines needed to carry astrobiology forward. Books in the series are at a suitable level for graduate students and researchers and are written to be accessible to scientists working in a range of disciplines.

Cover illustration: Anton Petrus/Moment/Getty Images

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-1-107-16365-2

