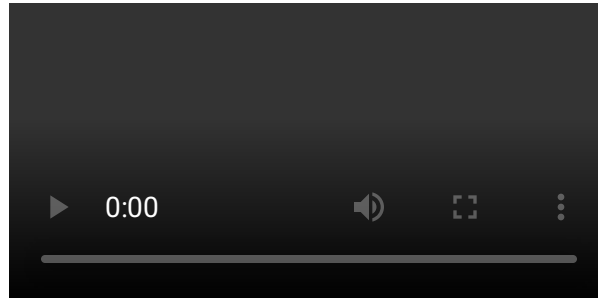


1.0: Size and Scope Introduction

When you think of the Universe, what comes to mind? Do you have an idea of how big the Universe is? Do you know what sorts of objects it contains? This chapter will explore the Universe in the most general terms. Even if you think you can make a reasonably descriptive list of what's in the Universe (and you will be asked to do so), you might be surprised to find that some of the items do not fall where you originally thought they would.



Video Transcript

The Universe: Transcript

The Universe. When you say that word, what comes to mind? Do you imagine the objects that it contains, or possibly its size? Look around you. All of this is the Universe: the chair that you sit in, the monitor before you, the cars and people passing by outside. The Earth under your feet, and you and your feet as well, are all a part of the Universe.

But all of this - the objects and materials that you interact with every day, the Earth itself - are less than a fraction of a fraction of a percent of what the Universe is. The scale of the Universe is so vast, containing everything we know and more, that new units of measurement and different ways of thinking and communicating are needed in order to understand it.

In this chapter we will begin to explore the size and scale of the Universe, and to acquire the scientific tools we will need for our exploration.

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