
Subject: Re: are we alone?

Posted by [BlueThen](#) on Sun, 07 Oct 2007 20:06:56 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Jecht wrote on Sun, 07 October 2007 07:55 Tankkiller wrote on Sat, 06 October 2007 23:38 I forgot the name of the guy who theorized this but he calculated about 56,600,000 planets that could support life in the milky way.

What's the probability of those supporting "Intelligent life" though?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drake_equation

$$N = R^* \times F_p \times N_e \times F_l \times F_i \times F_c \times L$$

N is the number of civilizations in our galaxy with which we might hope to be able to communicate;

and

R* is the average rate of star formation in our galaxy

fp is the fraction of those stars that have planets

ne is the average number of planets that can potentially support life per star that has planets

fl is the fraction of the above that actually go on to develop life at some point

fi is the fraction of the above that actually go on to develop intelligent life

fc is the fraction of civilizations that develop a technology that releases detectable signs of their existence into space

L is the length of time such civilizations release detectable signals into space.
