

# David Deutsch

## Quotes

*Reality, Problem, Failing, Law, People, Tests, Explanation, Views, Interesting,  
Program, Stars, May, Important, Levels, Majority, Inspiration, Fall, Virtual  
Reality, Common Sense, Travel*

Quantum computation is a distinctively new way of harnessing nature. It will be the first technology that allows useful tasks to be performed in collaboration between parallel universes.

~David Deutsch

Feeling insignificant because the universe is large has exactly the same logic as feeling inadequate for not being a cow.

~David Deutsch

It is possible to build a virtual-reality generator whose repertoire includes every possible environment.

~David Deutsch

Our best theories are not only truer than common sense, they make more sense than common sense...

~David Deutsch

Every problem that is interesting is also soluble.

~David Deutsch

Base metals can be transmuted into gold by stars, and by intelligent beings who understand the processes that power stars, but by nothing else in the universe.

~David Deutsch

The whole [scientific] process resembles biological evolution. A problem is like an ecological niche, and a theory is like a gene or a species which is being tested for viability in that niche.

~David Deutsch

No precautions, and no precautionary principle, can avoid problems that we do not yet foresee. We need a stance of problem-fixing, not just problem-avoidance.

~David Deutsch

The overwhelming majority of theories are rejected because they contain bad explanations, not because they fail experimental tests.

~David Deutsch

Humans may or may not have cosmic significance, and if they do, it will be by hitching a ride on the objective centrality of knowledge in the cosmic scheme of things.

~David Deutsch

If we can't program it, we can't understand it.

~David Deutsch

I chop and change between what is called 'work' and what is called 'recreation.' There are no discontinuities in my day. I only play tennis with people I find interesting.

~David Deutsch

To me quantum computation is a new and deeper and better way to understand the laws of physics, and hence understanding physical reality as a whole.

~David Deutsch

Discovering a new explanation is inherently an act of creativity.

~David Deutsch

If you can't program it, you haven't understood it.

~David Deutsch

Is the human race a universal constructor?

~David Deutsch

Science is objective. And in my view we cannot take any experimental results seriously except in the light of good explanations of them.

~David Deutsch

Where we have good, testable explanations, they then have to be tested, and we drop the ones that fail the tests.

~David Deutsch

Despite the unrivaled empirical success of quantum theory, the very suggestion that it may be literally true as a description of nature is still greeted with cynicism, incomprehension, and even anger.

~David Deutsch

I don't think it would be a good idea for scientists to have more political power. Scientists as a group are more inclined to try to derive an ought from an is, than the population at large.

~David Deutsch

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