

# Hypothetical Approaches to Existential Philosophy

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*In this paper I list some hypothetical approaches to existential philosophy. There are two main approaches: Positive and negative, which are listed in alphabetic order with tags. Feedback is welcome, including suggestions for new entries, new tags etc.*

## Positive approaches

Tags: lifestyle, linguistic, meditative, meta, physics, social, spiritual

Hypothesis	Tags	Description
Activity	lifestyle, meta	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by performing some activity as much as possible
Art	lifestyle	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by creating and studying art
Artificial intelligence	linguistic	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by building an advanced computer software that reasons about how to figure out existence
Asceticism	lifestyle, meditative	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by withdrawing from pleasures in life
Brain	physics	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by studying the brain
Collaboration	meta	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by making many people work together
Competition	meta	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by making many people compete against each other
Constraint	meta	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by studying the constraints of the problem
Cosmology	physics	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by studying possible origins of the universe and models of the universe
Creativity	meta	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by combining various approaches and ideas
Discourse	social	It is possible in principle to figure out

		existence by formulating ideas, representing them to other people and retrieve new ideas in response
Economics	meta	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by studying economics
Engineering	physics	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by building a functioning brain
Exploration	meta	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by exploring random options until one stumbles upon an approach that gives insight into the problem of how to figure out existence
Hacking	meta	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by obtaining some special skill or special knowledge about the world
Hedonism	lifestyle	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by enjoying life
Hermit	lifestyle, meditative	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by isolating oneself from the rest of the world
History	meta	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by studying history
Holy	lifestyle, meditative, spiritual	It is possible in principle to figure out existence through religious thinking or reading holy scriptures or devotion toward some religious lifestyle
Language	linguistic	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by designing some language that can articulate ideas about existence very well
Living	lifestyle, social	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by living without necessary thinking about it
Lucky	meta	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by some lucky event
Math	meta	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by studying math and logic
Meditation	physics, meditative	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by sitting still and observing oneself
Physics	physics	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by studying physics
Poetry	lifestyle	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by writing and reading poetry
Rationality	linguistic	It is possible in principle to figure out existence simply by thinking about it for prolonged periods of time using rational

		methods for thinking
Simulation	physics	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by designing a simulation that simulates aspects of existence
Social	social	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by studying social interactions between people
Solved	meta	People have already figured out existence, they just do not know it (in the case they believe they have not figured it out yet)
Surveillance	meta	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by collecting data about what people do
Technology	physics	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by waiting for new technology to be developed
Travel	lifestyle, linguistic, meditative, social	It is possible in principle to figure out existence by traveling around and absorbing different cultures

## Negative approaches

Tags: limiting, paradoxical, tautological

Hypothesis	Tags	Description
Distraction	paradoxical	People will never figure out existence simply because they get distracted
Dumbness	limiting	People will never figure out existence simply because they are not smart enough
Exotic matter	limiting	It is not possible for anyone to figure out existence since some exotic matter (non-existent physical state of matter) is required to build the tools needed in scientific experiments to gather sufficient data
Identity	limiting, tautological	It is not possible for anyone to figure out existence since one can only choose one approach and any approach is insufficient to understand the whole picture, nor is it possible to communicate the knowledge properly between approaches
Higher cardinality	limiting, tautological	It is not possible for anyone to figure out existence since it requires mathematics and physics of higher cardinality than decidable algorithms can determine truth values
Limited time	limiting	It is not possible for anyone to figure out existence due to insufficient amounts of free

		time
Non-puzzle	tautological	There is no point in trying to figure out existence since there is nothing puzzling about it to start with
Self sabotage	paradoxical	When getting close to figuring out how existence works, one's own subconsciousness agency sabotages the final steps, for unknown reasons, and it also sabotages attempts to reason properly about this hypothesis