

PROPOSAL
The Computer

Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything

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Keywords: Life, Universe, Everything

1 Introduction and Motivation

Ever since the proclamation of a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations [1], the question of what it all means has remained open. Many generations of philosophers, mathematicians and computer scientists have tried to answer the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything — so far without a satisfying result.

This thesis will approach the question computationally. A dedicated planetary computer will be designed and run until an answer is produced. The exposé at hand motivates the topic, defines the goals of the thesis and describes the planned approach and schedule.

2 Problem Statement and Objectives

The problem is twofold: it is unclear what the answer to the Ultimate Question is, and it is equally unclear what the Ultimate Question actually says. Within the scope of this thesis only the first part will be addressed.

The objectives of the thesis are:

1. Design of an architecture that is capable of computing the answer.
2. Implementation of a prototype of the proposed architecture.
3. Evaluation of the produced answer with respect to correctness and usefulness.

Out of scope is the reconstruction of the Ultimate Question itself, which is left for future work.

3 Planned Approach

The thesis will follow an iterative approach. First, related work on very large questions is reviewed. Based on the findings, a suitable architecture is designed and a prototype is implemented. The prototype is then evaluated against a set of smaller, well understood questions before it is applied to the Ultimate Question.

3.1 Methodology

The evaluation will compare the computed answer against the expectations of a panel of hyper-intelligent beings. The comparison is carried out in a controlled experiment, and the results are analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively.

4 Schedule

The thesis is planned to be completed within seven and a half million years. The table below shows the planned schedule.

No motivation, to translate the table from typst to latex, but i think this will be enough to compare both documents side by side.

Literatur

[1] UNITED NATIONS: *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Dezember 1948