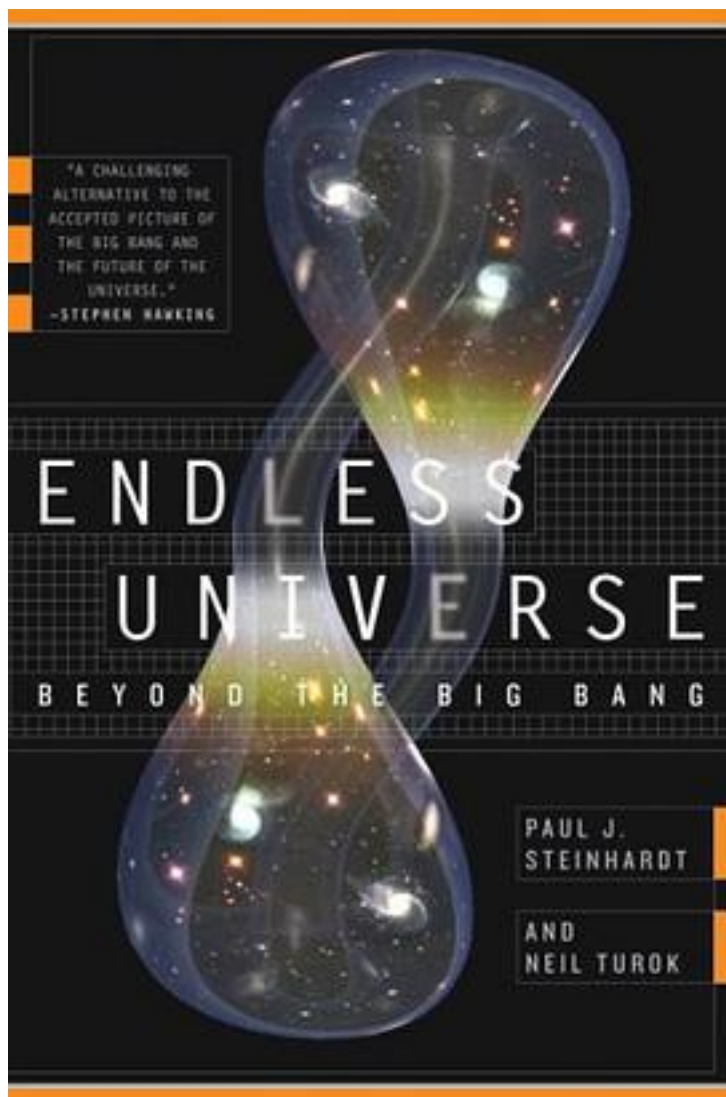


Endless Universe



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For decades, scientists have held that time and space were created in the Big Bang—a hot fireball of nearly infinite density. But Paul Steinhardt and Neil Turok have developed an alternate cosmology and now describe it in Endless Universe.

Inspired by string theories, Steinhardt and Turok suggest our universe lies on a four-dimensional “brane” embedded in a higher-dimensional bulk. Moreover, another brane lies a tiny distance (10-30 cm) from our own. The scientists found that the Big Bang’s effects could be duplicated in a collision between these branes. Also, the branes can be shown to have collided not just once, but an infinite number of times! They refer to this endless cycle of collision and separation as their “cyclic universe” theory. Here they recall how they were led to their idea, illustrate its mechanics, and describe its advantages over the classic Big Bang. For example, the strength of dark energy is more easily explained by the cyclic model.

Including proposals for experimental tests, Endless Universe describes a provocative new model to account for our cosmos.

Praise:

“A challenging alternative to the accepted picture of the Big Bang and the future of the Universe.” —Stephen Hawking, author of A Brief History of Time

作者介绍:

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