

CURRENT TRENDS IN CREATIONIST RESEARCH



Richard Overman

Creation Education Resources, Inc.

www.creationeducation.org

cer@creationeducation.org

OUTLINE



- INTRODUCTION
- GEOLOGY
- BIOLOGY
- EARTH SCIENCE/ PHYSICS
- NEANDERTHAL MAN
- SOCIAL SCIENCES
- EDUCATIONAL ISSUES
- CONCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

- Based on observations and impressions from the 4th International Conference on Creationism.
- 47 papers presented.
- General observations on next slide.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT ICC98

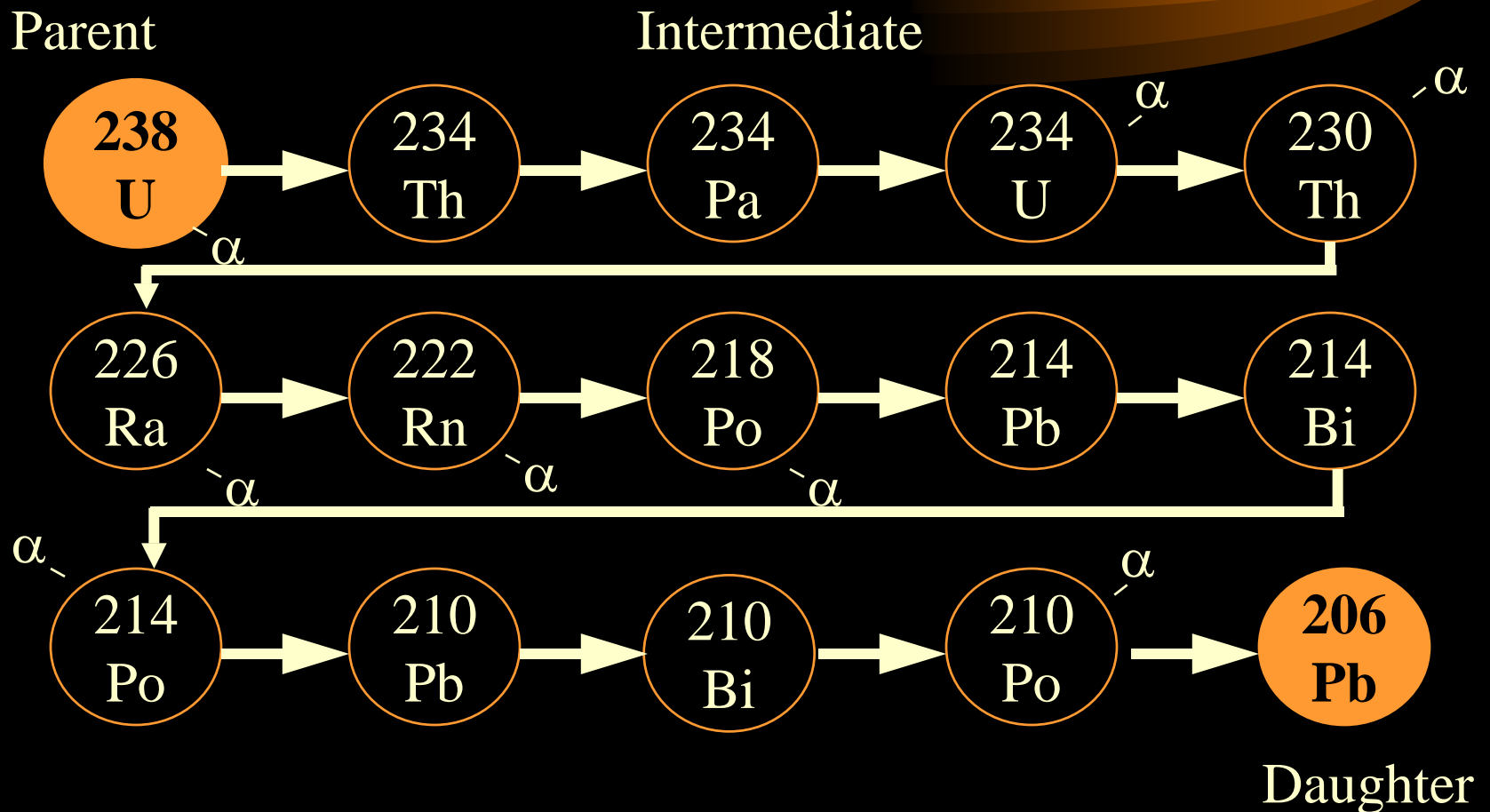
- Research focused on Biology, Geology, and Physics.
- Biology and Geology furthest along in developing a creation scientific model.
- Geology has the most advanced model.
- Astronomy, Biblical Studies, and Social Sciences are lagging.

DISCIPLINE	# OF PAPERS
Astronomy	2
Biblical Studies	7
Biology	11
Geology	11
Physics	10
Social Sciences	6

GEOLOGY

- Many geology papers were on the age of the earth.
- RATE team chaired by Dr. Vardiman at ICR is aggressively researching radiometric dating.
- Research is showing that typical assumptions in radiometric dating are flawed (more to come).
- Research is taking two tracks.
 - Was the decay rate faster in the past.
 - Are there pre-existing daughter isotopes? (I will explain).

WHAT IS A DAUGHTER ISOTOPE?



U^{238} Decay Series

LOOKING FOR PRE-EXISTING DAUGHTER ISOTOPES



- “The Cause of Anomalous Potassium-Argon ‘Ages’ for Recent Andesite Flows at Mt. Ngauruhoe, New Zealand and the Implications for Potassium-Argon ‘Dating’”.
- Paper by Andrew Snelling.
- Don’t be intimidated by the title.
- Impact is simple and profound.

THE LAVA SAMPLE



- Collected samples from 3 lava flows known to have solidified in 1949, 1954, and 1975.
- Samples should have dated to be 48, 43, and 22 years old respectively.

DATING THE ROCKS

- Sample sent to laboratory.
- Mineral content measured.
- Assume no ^{40}Ar to begin with (^{40}Ar not retained in lava until it solidifies)
- Decay rate from Potassium to Argon known and assumed constant
- Assume no ^{40}Ar can get in or out of the rock.
- Age based on the amount of ^{40}Ar found in the rock.

THE PROBLEM

- Samples showed ages of hundreds of thousands of years when we know they solidified less than 50 years ago.
- Where did the “extra” ^{40}Ar come from?
- Dr. Snelling investigated various possibilities and eliminated all except one.
- The excess ^{40}Ar appears to have been in the earth’s mantle since creation.

DR. SNELLING CONCLUDES

- 1 “this is clearly consistent with a young earth, where the very short time-scale since the creation of the earth has been insufficient for all of the primordial argon to be released yet from the Earth’s deep interior.”

DR. SNELLING CONCLUDES

2 “when samples of crustal rocks are analyzed for [Potassium-Argon] ‘dating’, the investigators can never really be sure that whatever ^{40}Ar is in the sample is from *in situ* radioactive decay... or whether some or all of it is from the excess ^{40}Ar ” in the mantle.

BIOLOGY



- There are a number of different avenues of scientific inquiry in Biology from a creationist perspective.
- One of the most interesting regards animal classification.
- Is there a best way of classifying animals was the topic of this next paper.

ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION

- “Is Life Singularly Nested or Not?”
- Paper by Dr. Kurt Wise
- Evolution seems to explain the current way of organizing animals better than creation.
- Trying to fit the animals into a singularly nested pattern is an exercise in futility.

TRADITIONAL HIERARCHY

Example:

Family: Canidae

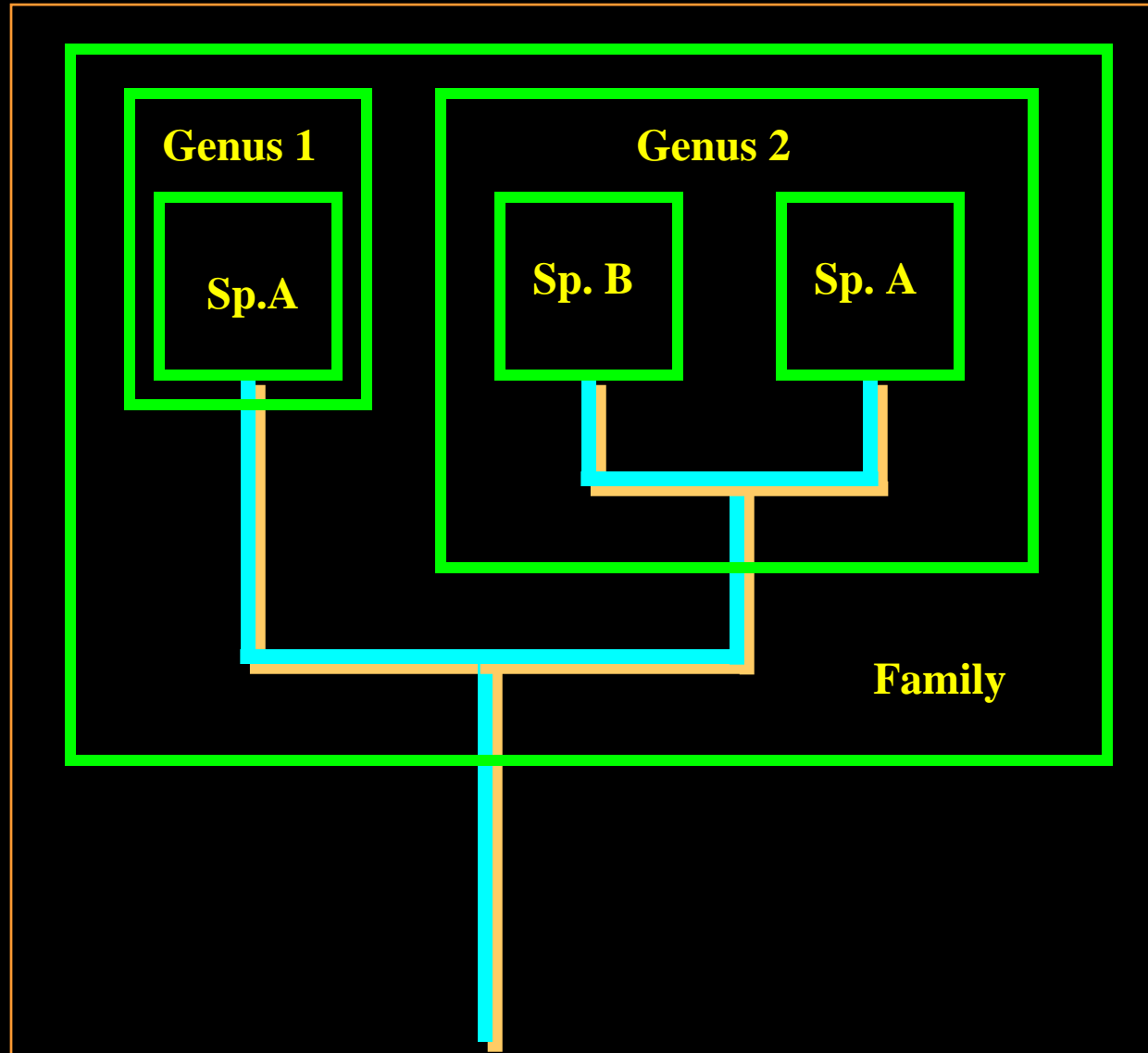
Genus 1: Vulpes

Species A: Fulva
(American red fox)

Genus 2: Canis

Species A: Familiaris
(Domestic dog)

Species B: Lupus
(Gray wolf)



“PRIMATE” EXAMPLE

- Current Taxonomy

Kingdom: Animal

Phylum: Chordate

Subphylum: Vertebrate

Class: Mammalia

Order: Primate (superior nervous system and nails on digits)

Family: Hominidae (no tail or cheek pouches and non-opposable big toe.

Principles of Zoology, Johnson et. al., Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc, 1969, P317

- Alternative Taxonomy

Living things: DNA/RNA

Animals: Vertebrate/Non-Vertebrate

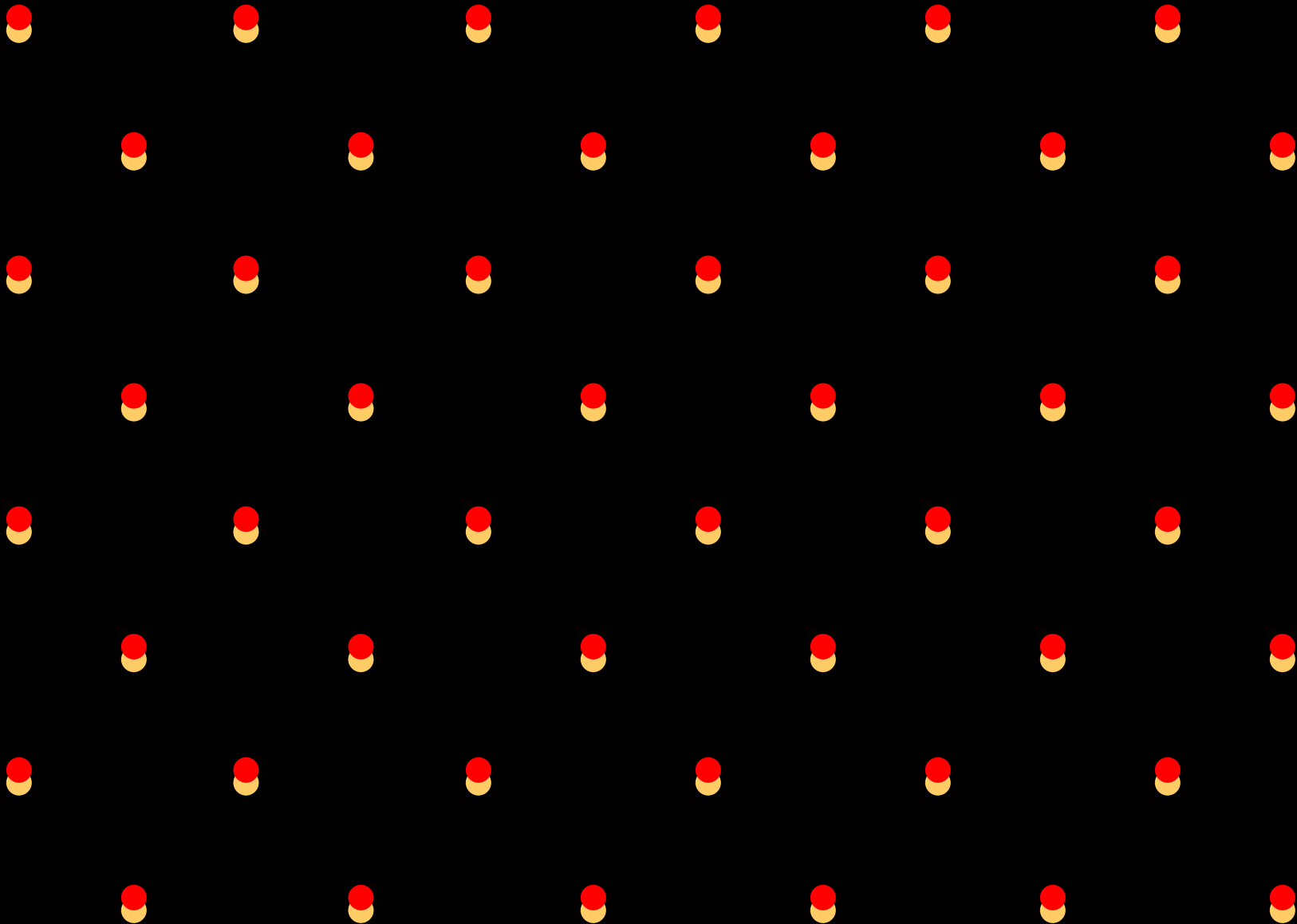
Vertebrates: Mammals/Non-mammals

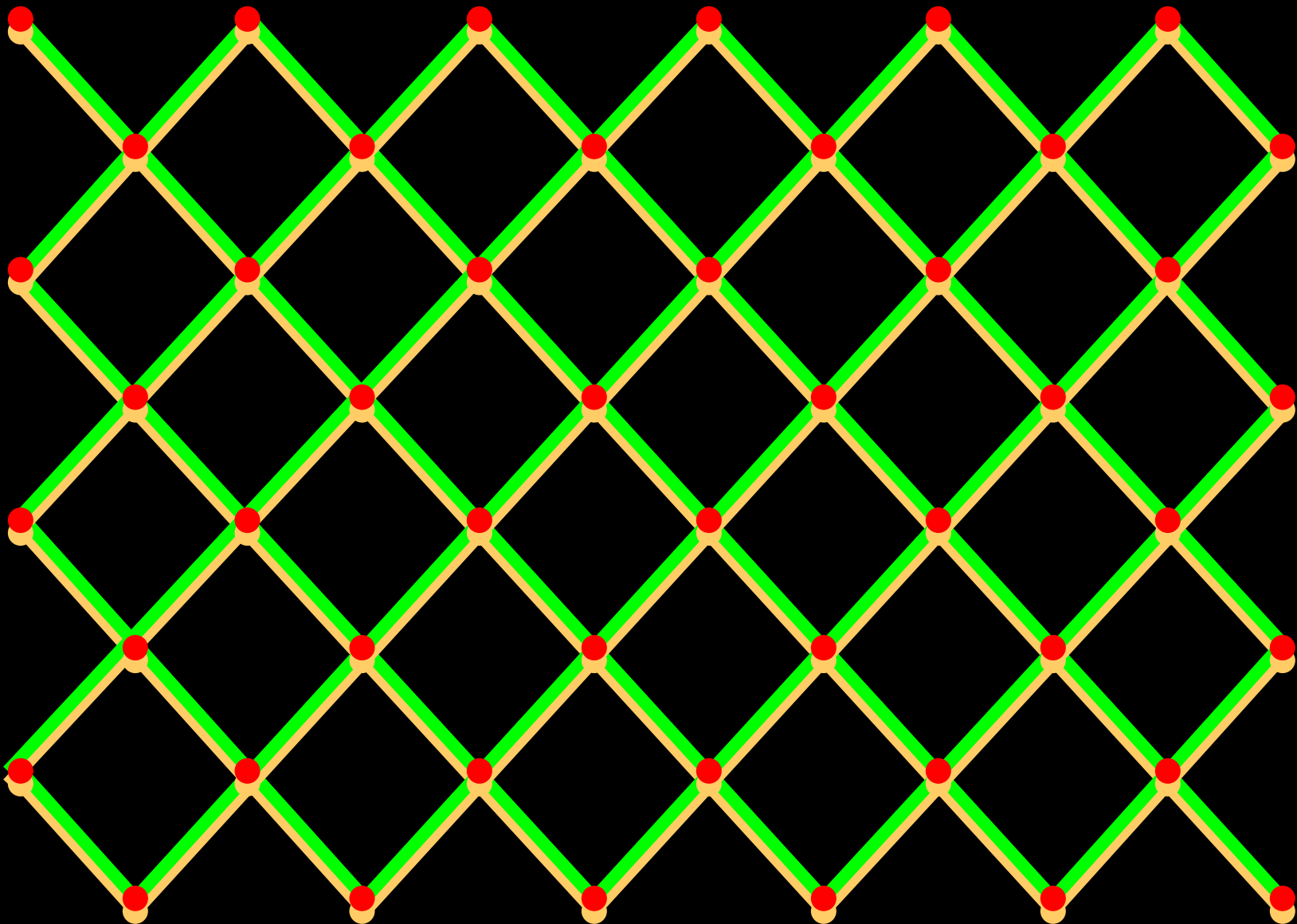
Mammals: Placentals/Non-placentals

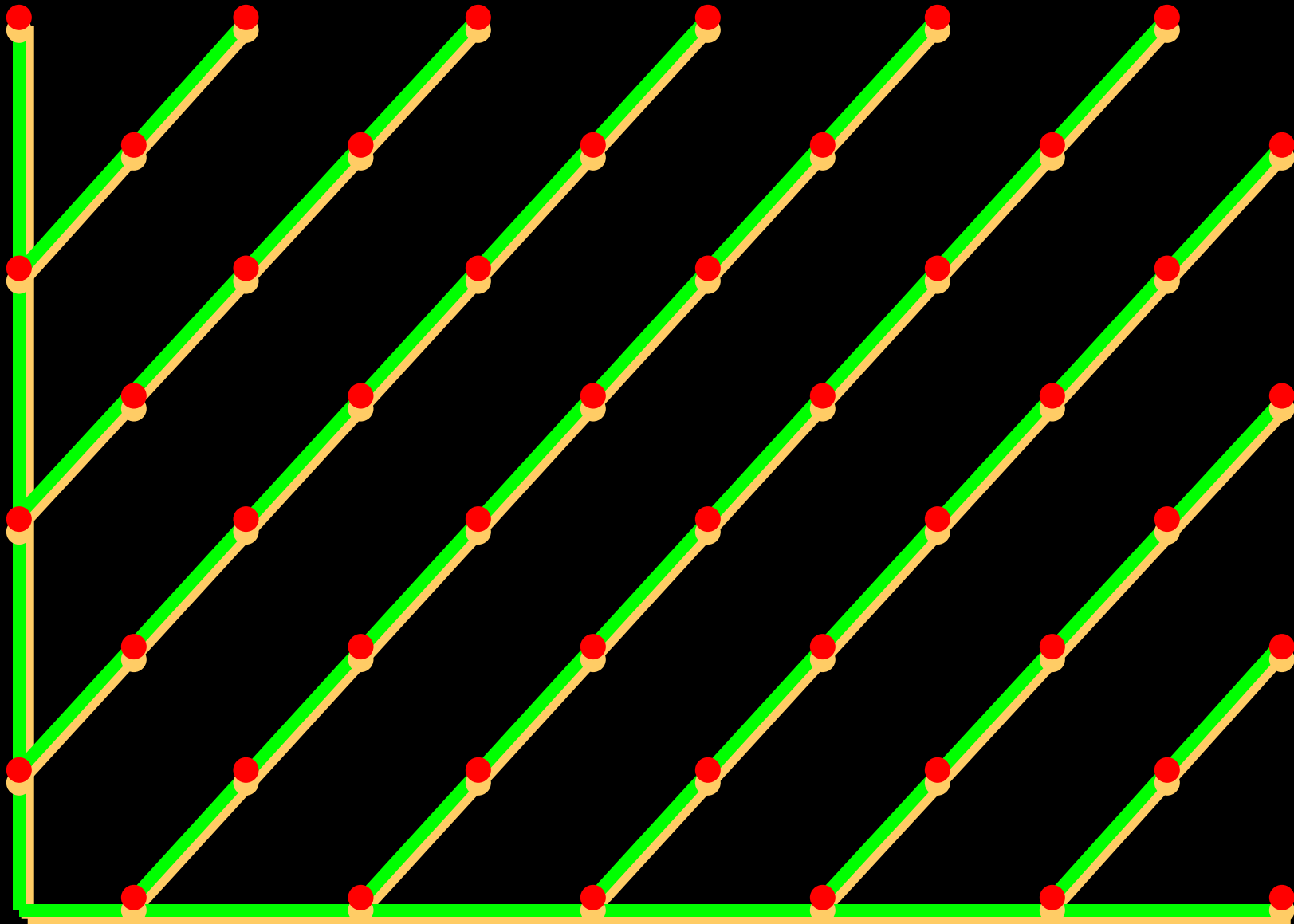
Placentals: Non-opposable thumb/Primates

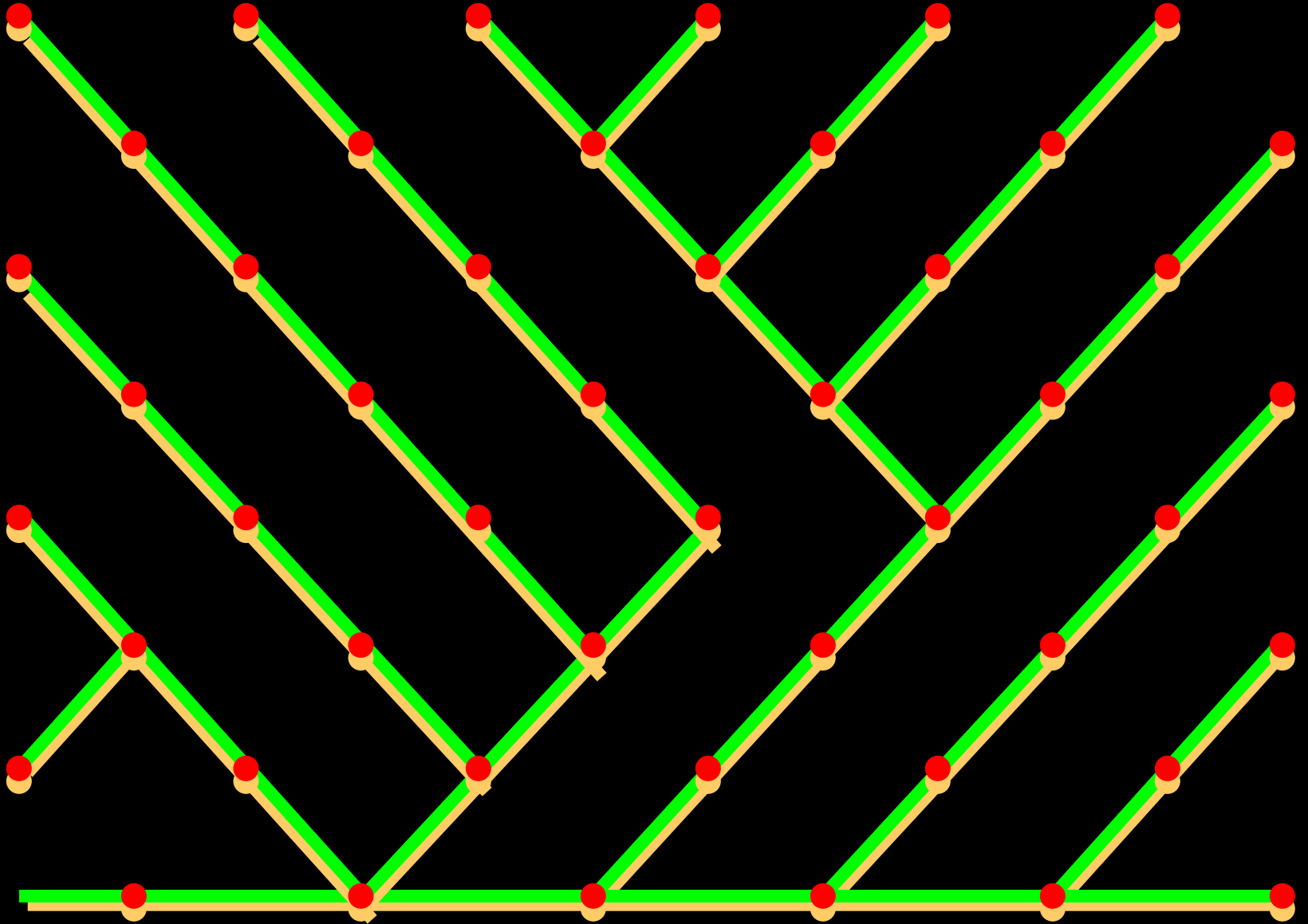
Primates: Opposable thumb

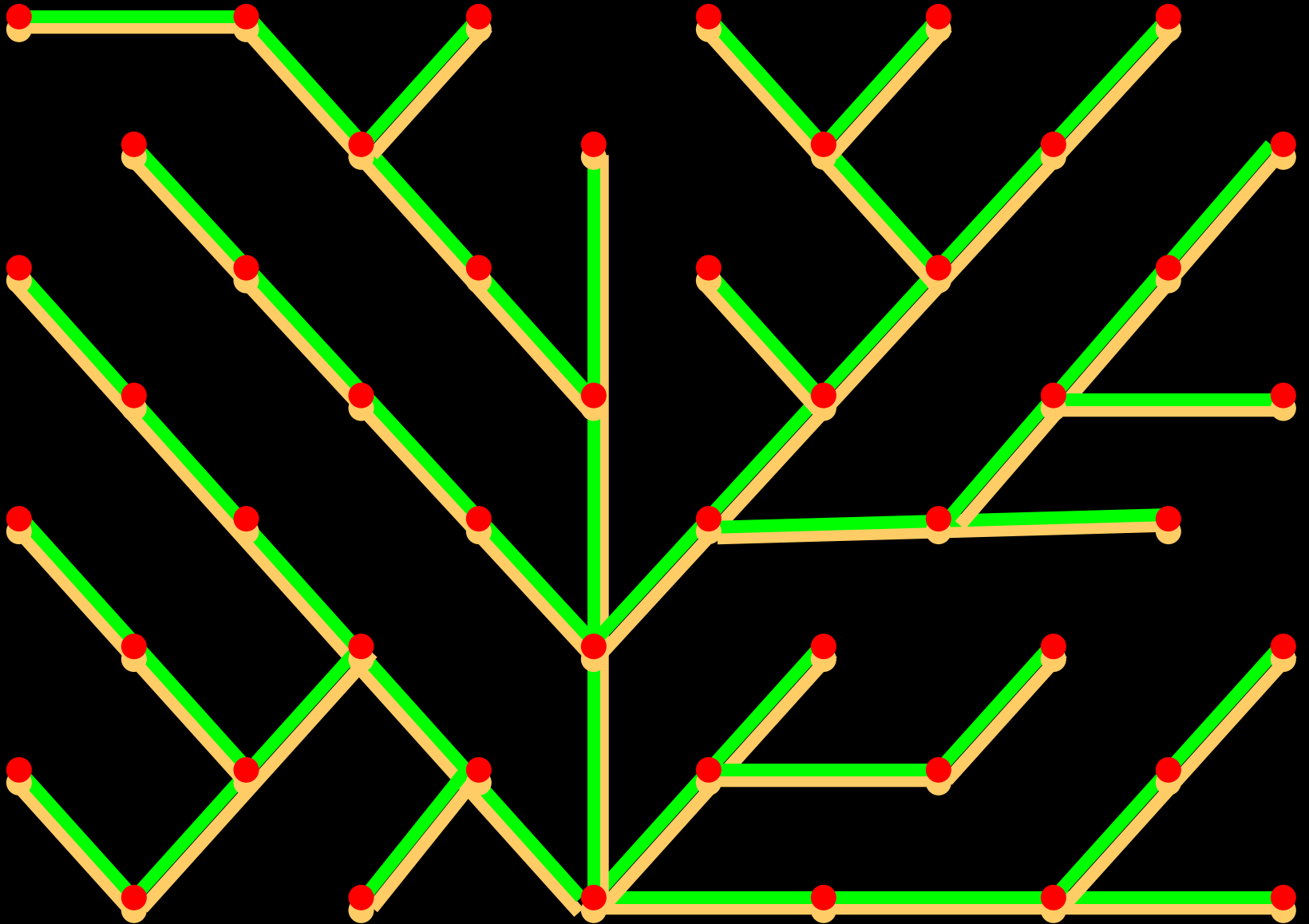
“Is Life Singularly Nested or Not”, Wise, Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Creationism, 1998, P619











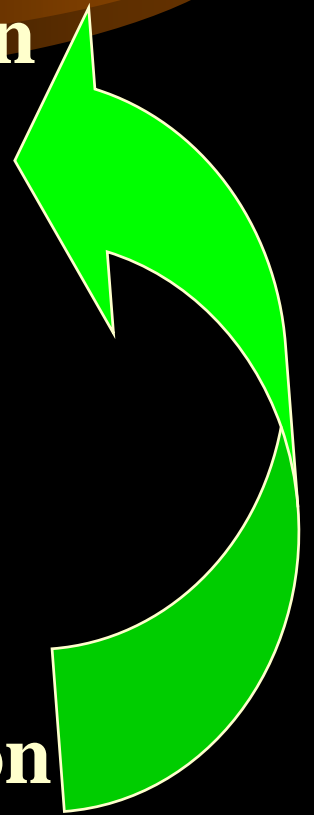
DR. WISE'S CONCLUSION

“The unique nested pattern of life memorized by our children in secondary school is pointed to as evidence of macroevolution in tertiary schools. This contributes to the faith-challenges encountered by our children in evolutionary education. If life is networked or multiple-nested, and our children were taught a proper perspective on that, the appeal to bio-classification as evidence of macroevolution would be nullified.”

GOING IN CIRCLES

**Current taxonomic classification
developed by evolutionists.**

**Current taxonomic classification
used as evidence for evolution.**



THE QUESTION REMAINS

**Current taxonomic classification
developed by evolutionists.**

**Is there a best way of
classifying animals?**

**Current taxonomic classification
used as evidence for evolution.**

BARAMINOLOGY

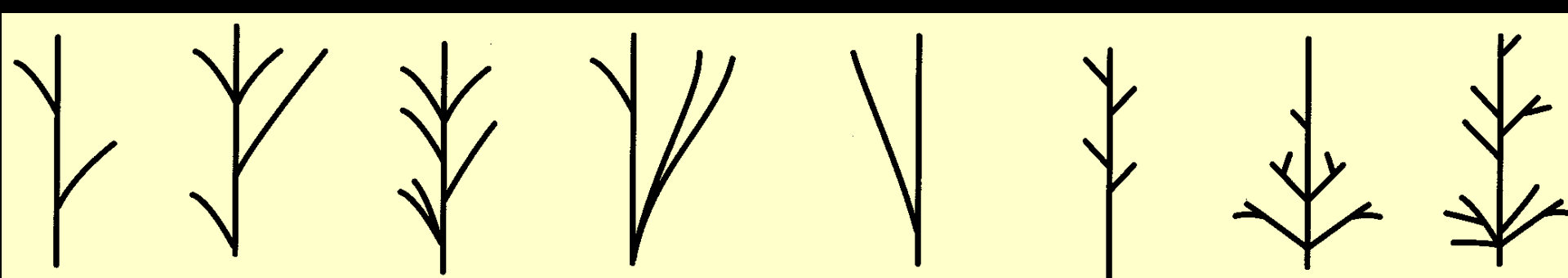
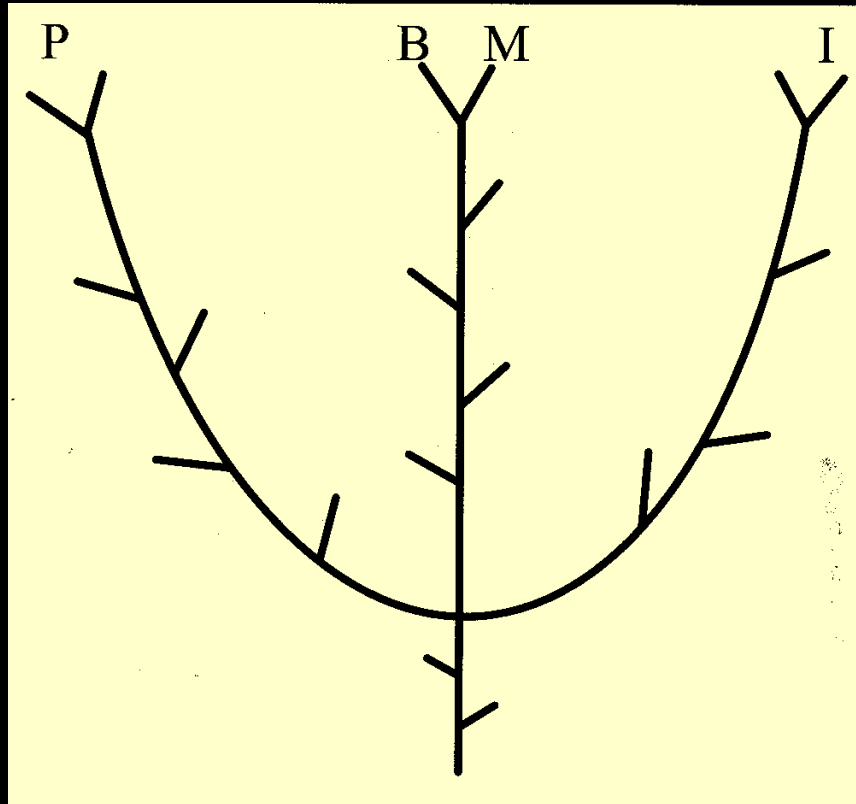


- Taxonomy based on the created kinds
- Exciting new field in Creationist research
- Introduced 1990 by Dr. Steve Wise
- Comes from Hebrew words
 - Bara – Created
 - Min – Kind
 - Ology – Study of
- New taxonomic terminology

BARAMINOLOGY

**Generalized Macroevolution
Diagram**

Neo-Creationist Orchard



EARTH SCIENCE/ PHYSICS



- Research is focusing on the flood and causes for the flood.
- The rapidly moving plate tectonics flood theory is becoming widely accepted but not fully accepted.
- Flood causes under investigation range from asteroid impact to hypercanes.
- Look at new information on the vapor canopy.

THE VAPOR CANOPY THEORY

- Many creationists believe that Gen. 1:6 describes God placing a vapor canopy over the earth.
- The vapor canopy was thought to be the source of the 40 days of rain during the flood.
- Research has shown that this is not physically possible.



CANOPY RESEARCH

- Computer modeling shows that if the canopy held enough water for 40 days of substantial rain the temperature on earth would be too hot for life.
- Updated research leads to the same conclusions.
- Research does not discount the existence of the canopy.
- Research does discount that the canopy could be the source of the 40 days of rain.

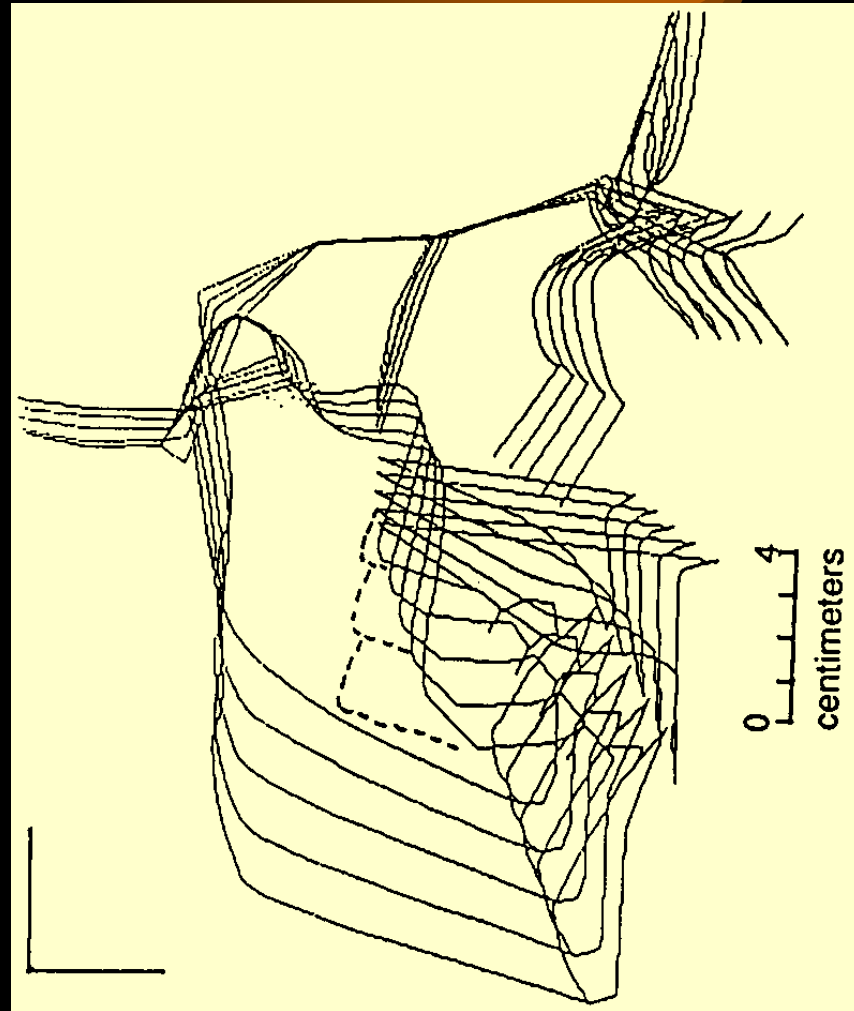
NEANDERTHAL MAN

- “What Happened to the Craniofacial Structure of Humans who Live Past 100 Years? Neanderthal Similarities.”
- Paper by Dr. John Cuzzo.
- Studied the changes to the face and skull with aging.
- A fascinating study that puts a “new face” on the Neanderthal fossils.

HUMAN FACIAL CHANGES WITH AGE

- Even as adults our face and skull change with age.
- The skull gets longer and wider but not higher.
- Based on data from extensive studies, Dr. Cuozzo and Brian Garner extrapolated what the human face would look like after 100, 200, 300, 400, and 500 years.

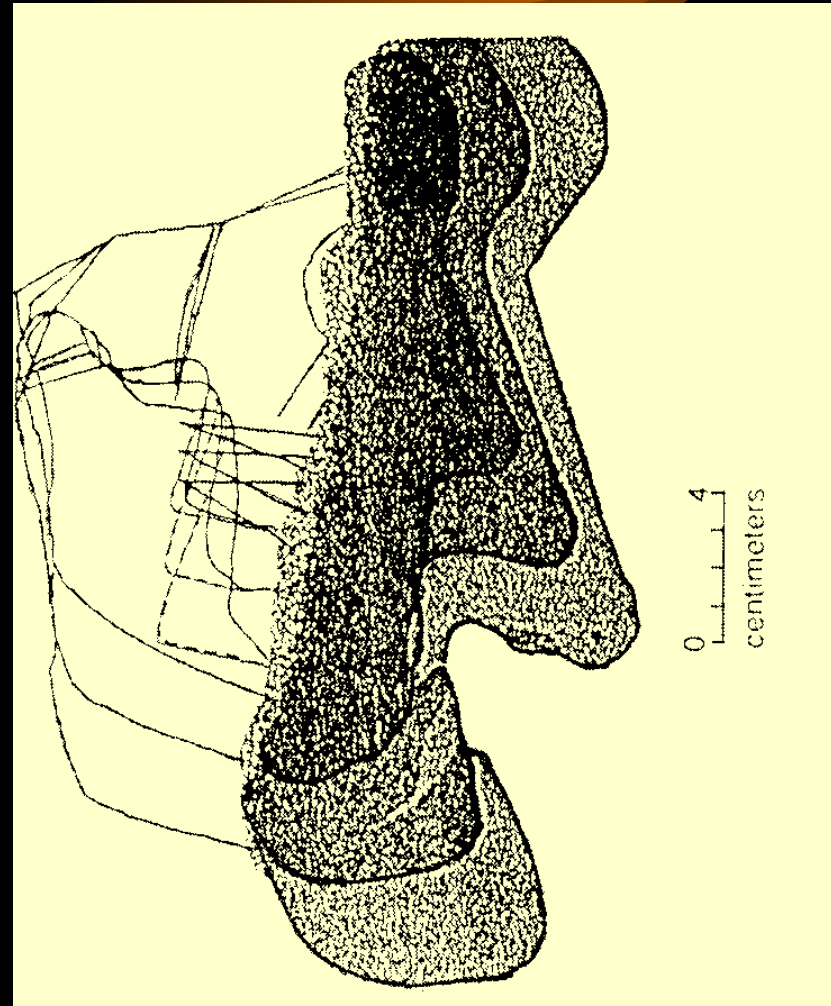
Proceeding of the 4th International conference on Creationism, p113



HUMAN FACIAL CHANGES WITH AGE

**Projected soft tissue growth
of a modern male
craniofacial skeleton at 100,
300, and 500 years of age.**

“Buried Alive”, Jack Cuozzo, Master Books, 1998, p161.



GROWTH RATE?

- **Evolutionists claim that the Neanderthal fossils lived up to 40-45 years old.**
- **To get the facial structural changes observed between the younger and older Neanderthal, their growth rate would have had to be 9.5-13.5 times faster than modern humans.**
- **This is unreasonable and the alternative that they were actually over 200 years old when they died is more likely.**
- **Exposed many errors and omissions by evolutionists.**

CUOZZO'S CONCLUSIONS

- We see scientific evidence of the absolute truths of scripture that men lived hundreds of years.
- Contrary to Hugh Ross's* claims, Neanderthal had tear ducts and could cry just like us.
- Neanderthal generally lived to be over 200 years old.
- “Evidence has been presented for the Neanderthal people to actually be the old humans described in the Bible.”

*H. Ross, “No Tears for Neanderthals,” *Facts and Faith*, Vol. 10, No. 4, 1996, p 11.

SOCIAL SCIENCES



- New avenue of research for creation scientists
- Focusing on the impact of evolutionary thought and teaching on our world view and morality
- Dr. Steve Deckard and I are the main researchers in this area.
- My paper was one of 47 accepted out of 150 or so submitted.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

- “Comparing Origins Beliefs and Moral Views”
- Paper by Richard Overman
- Addresses the statement “what you believe about creation and evolution affects your moral views”

INTRODUCTION

- Many creationists claim that what one believes about origins affects his or her worldview.
- For example, Drs. John and Henry Morris state:
“a person’s philosophy of origins will inevitably determine sooner or later what he believes concerning his destiny, and even what he believes about the meaning and purpose of his life and actions right now in the present world”

INTRODUCTION (cont.)

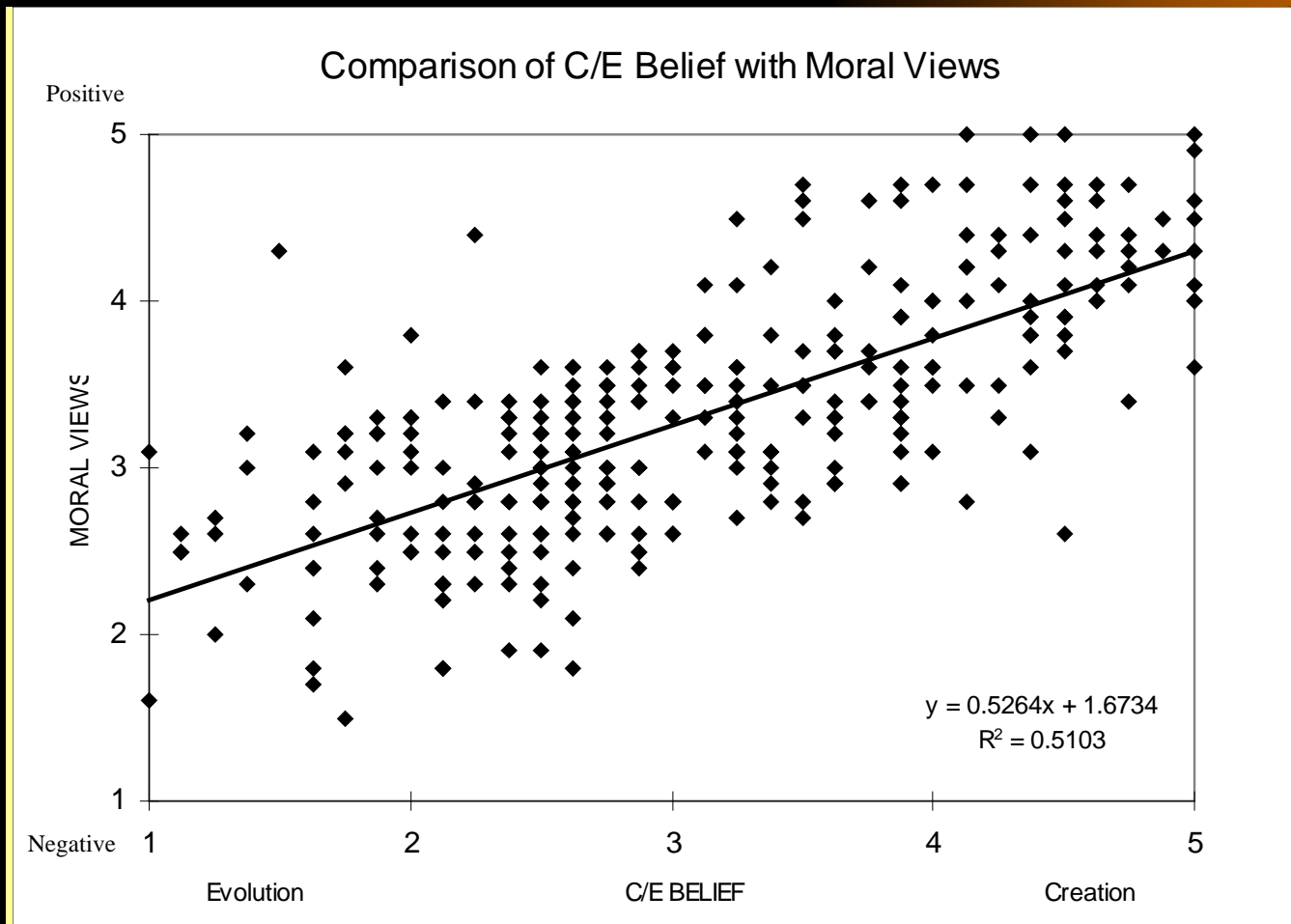


- Do you believe that a person's beliefs about origins affects his or her worldview or moral views?
- How do you know?
- Is there any data to support this belief?
- These are the questions that led to this study.

INTRODUCTION (cont.)

- Why is it important to study this from a social science perspective?
- North highlights the importance:
“Christians have not been shown clearly and decisively that Darwinism is a total worldview... To win the battle with Darwinism... six-day creationists must believe that the stakes are far larger than mere laboratory experiments or one-evening debates.”

OVERALL TREND



OVERMAN'S CONCLUSIONS

- The study achieved all of its objectives:
 - Subject's origins beliefs were measured.
 - Subject's moral views were measured.
 - Comparison between the two was made.
- The research hypothesis that there is a relationship between origins belief and moral views is supported.
- Secondary hypothesis that the more one believes in creation the more positive his or her moral views is also supported.

OVERMAN'S CONCLUSIONS (cont.)

- The results **BEGIN** to provide empirical support to the claim that what one believes about origins affects his or her world view.
- **THIS STUDY DOES NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT DATA TO SHOW A CAUSE AND EFFECT RELATIONSHIP.**

EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

- Separate tract at ICC on education.
- Most sessions attended by Ginger.
- Many of the speakers relayed personal experiences of what they went through-- some positive, but mostly negative.
- Sessions provided good advice for teachers.

ADVICE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS



- Do not bring up the subject of God, just stick with the science.
- Videotape the sessions.
- Get permission from the authority over you.
- Get personal counsel (be proactive) before you start.
- Don't be cooperative with the press.
- Make sure you have tenure before you start to teach anything about creation.

CONCLUSION



- I am very excited about the current trends in Creation science.
- I have come to believe that the age of the earth is one of the most crucial issues in the creation/evolution debate.
- Creationist biologists are casting off evolution based baggage like animal classification.
- Looking forward to more research in the area of Astronomy.

CONCLUSION (cont.)

- Creation researchers must be united in the common goal of glorifying God and exposing the myth of evolution.
- Don't let anyone tell you that creationists do not do original research. Everything you saw in this presentation was original creationist research.