

THE USES OF ARGUMENT 2ND EDITION PAPERBACK Latest Edition

The uses of Argument 2nd Edition paperback is a versatile resource that serves a wide range of purposes for students, educators, writers, and anyone interested in enhancing their reasoning and critical thinking skills. This edition, renowned for its clarity and depth, offers more than just theoretical insights; it provides practical applications that can be employed in everyday life, academic pursuits, and professional settings. Whether you're looking to improve your argumentative skills, refine your writing, or deepen your understanding of logic and rhetoric, the 2nd edition paperback of The Uses of Argument is an invaluable tool.

Understanding the Core Purpose of the Book

Enhancing Critical Thinking Skills

One of the primary uses of the Argument 2nd edition paperback is to develop critical thinking capabilities. It guides readers through the process of analyzing arguments, identifying logical fallacies, and constructing coherent, persuasive arguments of their own. By studying this book, readers learn to evaluate the strength of reasoning behind various claims and assertions, which is essential in academic, professional, and personal contexts.

Learning the Principles of Argumentation

The book offers foundational knowledge about the structure of arguments, including premises, conclusions, and the types of reasoning used to connect them. This understanding is crucial for anyone who wishes to communicate ideas effectively and convincingly.

Primary Uses of the 2nd Edition Paperback

Educational Tool in Academic Settings

The Uses of Argument serves as a core textbook in philosophy, rhetoric, communication, and writing courses. Its practical approach makes it suitable for both introductory classes and advanced seminars.

- **Teaching Critical Thinking:** Professors use it to teach students how to analyze complex arguments and develop their own.

- **Developing Writing Skills:** Students learn how to craft logical, persuasive essays and papers.
- **Exam Preparation:** It provides a solid foundation for standardized tests and exams that assess reasoning and analytical skills.

Reference Guide for Writers and Debaters

The book acts as a reference for writers aiming to improve the clarity and persuasiveness of their arguments. Debaters and public speakers also find it useful for structuring their arguments effectively and anticipating counterarguments.

Self-Study and Personal Development

For individuals interested in self-improvement, the paperback offers a self-guided path to mastering argumentation. Its accessible language and practical exercises make it an excellent resource for independent learners.

Key Features and Sections of the Paperback

Clear Explanations of Logical Concepts

The book breaks down complex ideas such as deductive and inductive reasoning, fallacies, and the difference between valid and sound arguments into understandable segments.

Practical Examples and Case Studies

Real-world examples illustrate how arguments function in various contexts, including politics, media, law, and everyday conversations.

Exercises and Practice Problems

Chapters include exercises designed to reinforce understanding and encourage active engagement with the material.

Focus on Fallacies and Errors in Reasoning

A significant portion of the book is dedicated to identifying common logical fallacies, such as ad hominem, straw man, false dilemma, and slippery slope, helping readers recognize flawed reasoning.

How to Maximize the Uses of the Paperback

Active Reading Strategies

- Annotate margins with notes and questions.
- Summarize key points after each chapter.
- Attempt all exercises to test comprehension.

Applying Concepts Practically

- Practice analyzing arguments in news articles, debates, and discussions.
- Construct your own arguments on various topics, applying the principles learned.
- Engage in debates or discussions to refine your reasoning skills.

Supplementary Resources

- Use additional online resources or guides to deepen understanding.
- Join study groups or discussion forums focused on argumentation.

Benefits of the Paperback Format

Portability and Ease of Use

The paperback edition is lightweight and portable, making it easy to carry to classes, meetings, or while commuting.

Ease of Annotation

Readers can easily highlight text, write notes in margins, and mark important sections for future reference.

Durability

Unlike digital formats, a paperback can withstand frequent handling and can be used in various environments without concern for battery life or screen damage.

Who Should Use the Argument 2nd Edition Paperback?

- **Students:** Those studying philosophy, communication, law, or related fields.

- **Educators:** Teachers designing curricula or seeking comprehensive teaching materials.
- **Writers and Journalists:** Professionals aiming to improve their persuasive writing skills.
- **Public Speakers and Debaters:** Individuals preparing for competitions or public discourse.
- **Self-Improvers:** Anyone interested in sharpening their reasoning and decision-making skills.

Conclusion: The Versatile Tool for Reasoning and Communication

The Uses of Argument 2nd edition paperback remains a cornerstone resource for understanding and applying the principles of sound argumentation. Its comprehensive coverage, practical approach, and accessible format make it an ideal companion for a wide audience. Whether for academic purposes, professional development, or personal growth, this book empowers readers to think more critically, argue more effectively, and communicate with clarity and confidence.

Investing in this paperback not only enhances your logical skills but also fosters a more analytical and rational approach to daily interactions and complex issues. With consistent study and application, the Argument 2nd edition paperback can serve as a foundational tool in your journey toward becoming a more effective thinker and communicator.

The Uses of Argument, 2nd Edition Paperback: An Essential Tool for Critical Thinking and Academic Excellence

In the landscape of philosophy, communication, and education, The Uses of Argument, 2nd Edition Paperback stands out as a fundamental resource for developing critical thinking skills, understanding the art of persuasion, and mastering the nuances of logical reasoning. This comprehensive guide offers students, educators, and professionals alike a robust framework for engaging in meaningful, effective argumentation. Its practical approach, combined with clear explanations and diverse examples, makes it an invaluable companion for anyone seeking to sharpen their reasoning abilities or improve their argumentative writing.

Why Choose the 2nd Edition in Paperback?

Before diving into the multifaceted uses of this textbook, it's important to understand what sets this edition apart. The paperback format lends itself to portability and ease of use, whether for classroom discussions, study sessions, or on-the-go review. The 2nd edition has been updated to include contemporary examples, refined explanations, and expanded exercises that cater to modern audiences. Its accessible language and structured layout make complex concepts approachable, fostering a deeper understanding of argumentation principles.

Core Uses of The Uses of Argument, 2nd Edition

- Academic Skill Development

One of the primary uses of this textbook is to serve as a foundational resource in courses related to philosophy, rhetoric, communication studies, and logic. Students often turn to it to:

- Learn the fundamentals of argumentation: Understanding the structure of arguments, including premises, conclusions, and logical connections.
- Develop critical thinking skills: Analyzing and evaluating arguments for validity, soundness, and strength.
- Enhance writing abilities: Constructing clear, persuasive, and well-reasoned essays or debates.
- Practice logical analysis: Recognizing fallacies and avoiding common reasoning errors.

- Teaching and Curriculum Design

Educators leverage this book as a core textbook or supplementary resource in teaching argumentation and critical thinking. Its structured chapters provide a logical progression from basic concepts to more advanced topics, making it ideal for:

- Designing lesson plans that build on each other.
- Assigning exercises that reinforce learning.
- Promoting classroom discussions centered around real-world issues.
- Encouraging students to craft their own arguments and critiques.

- Personal Skill Building and Everyday Use

Beyond academia, the book serves as a practical guide for everyday reasoning and decision-making. Individuals can use it to:

- Improve their ability to argue convincingly in personal or professional conversations.
- Recognize logical flaws in media, advertising, or political discourse.
- Develop strategies for persuasive communication in negotiations or debates.
- Enhance critical evaluation of claims encountered online or in print.

Specific Features and How They Enhance Its Uses

Clear Explanation of Argument Structures

The book emphasizes understanding the anatomy of arguments, including premises, conclusions, and supporting evidence. By mastering this, readers can:

- Break down complex arguments into manageable parts.
- Identify assumptions and underlying beliefs.
- Construct their own arguments with clarity and purpose.

Focus on Common Fallacies

A significant portion is dedicated to recognizing logical fallacies—errors in reasoning that weaken arguments. This focus helps users:

- Spot fallacious reasoning in others' arguments.
- Avoid making fallacious claims themselves.
- Develop more rigorous and credible arguments.

Practical Exercises and Real-World Examples

The inclusion of exercises and contemporary examples makes learning interactive and relevant. These tools are used for:

- Applying theoretical concepts practically.
- Testing understanding through quizzes and assignments.
- Engaging with issues relevant to current societal debates.

Applications in Different Contexts

Academic Research and Writing

Students and researchers can utilize the book to:

- Structure research papers and essays with logical coherence.
- Critically evaluate sources and evidence.
- Develop persuasive arguments that withstand scrutiny.

Professional Communication

In careers such as law, politics, marketing, or consulting, effective argumentation is crucial. The book's principles can be applied to:

- Craft compelling proposals.
- Present persuasive pitches.
- Defend positions convincingly in negotiations.

Personal Development and Civic Engagement

For individuals interested in becoming active citizens, the book offers tools to:

- Engage in informed discussions about social issues.
- Analyze public policies critically.
- Participate effectively in community debates or activism.

Benefits of the Paperback Format

While digital resources are increasingly prevalent, the physical paperback offers unique advantages for users of *The Uses of Argument*:

- Ease of annotation: Highlighting and note-taking directly on the pages.
- Portability: Carrying the book to classes, meetings, or on trips.
- Durability: With proper care, it can serve as a long-term reference.
- Visual engagement: The layout and visuals are often more accessible in print, aiding comprehension.

Summary: Unlocking the Power of Argument

The Uses of Argument, 2nd Edition Paperback is far more than a textbook—it's a comprehensive guide to understanding and mastering the art of reasoning. Whether you're a student looking to excel academically, an educator designing effective lessons, or a professional seeking to improve communication skills, this book provides the tools necessary for effective argumentation. Its focus on logical clarity, critical evaluation, and practical application makes it an essential resource in cultivating thoughtful, persuasive, and ethically sound arguments.

By integrating the principles outlined in this edition into your daily reasoning and communication, you'll not only enhance your intellectual toolkit but also empower yourself to navigate complex discussions with confidence and integrity. In an age where information is abundant and opinions

often clash, mastering the uses of argument is a vital skill?one that this paperback edition makes accessible and engaging for all learners.

Question What are the main topics covered in 'The Uses of Argument, 2nd Edition' paperback? The book covers topics such as argument analysis, inference types, logical reasoning, fallacies, and methods for constructing persuasive arguments. How is 'The Uses of Argument, 2nd Edition' useful for students of philosophy and logic? It provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and evaluating arguments, enhancing critical thinking and analytical skills essential in philosophy and logic courses. Can 'The Uses of Argument, 2nd Edition' be used as a textbook for argumentation courses? Yes, its clear explanations and structured approach make it an excellent textbook for courses focused on argument analysis and reasoning skills. What makes the second edition of 'The Uses of Argument' different from the first? The second edition includes updated examples, additional chapters on fallacies, and refined explanations to better address contemporary issues in argumentation. Is 'The Uses of Argument, 2nd Edition' suitable for beginners? Yes, it is designed to be accessible for beginners while also providing depth for more advanced readers interested in critical thinking. How can 'The Uses of Argument, 2nd Edition' improve my reasoning skills? By teaching you how to identify valid arguments, detect fallacies, and construct persuasive reasoning, it helps develop sharper critical thinking abilities. Does 'The Uses of Argument, 2nd Edition' include exercises or practice questions? Yes, the book contains exercises and examples that allow readers to practice analyzing and constructing arguments effectively. What is the target audience for 'The Uses of Argument, 2nd Edition' paperback? Its target audience includes students, educators, and anyone interested in improving their understanding of argumentation and critical reasoning. Where can I purchase 'The Uses of Argument, 2nd Edition' paperback? You can find it on major online retailers like Amazon, as well as in academic bookstores and libraries.

Related keywords: argument, second edition, paperback, usage, application, reasoning, debate, logic, critical thinking, writing skills

KALAM COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENTS

kalam cosmological arguments have long been a central focus in philosophical and theological debates concerning the existence of a divine creator. Rooted in the Islamic tradition and later embraced by Christian and Jewish thinkers, these arguments aim to demonstrate that the universe's existence points to an intelligent, necessary cause ? often identified as God. The kalam cosmological argument is distinguished by its emphasis on the principle of causality and the concept of a beginning in time, making it a compelling logical framework for those seeking to reconcile faith with reason. This article explores the origins, structure, key premises, criticisms, and contemporary relevance of the kalam cosmological arguments, providing a comprehensive overview for readers

interested in philosophy of religion.

Origins and Historical Background

Early Foundations in Islamic Philosophy

The kalam cosmological argument finds its roots in medieval Islamic theology, particularly within the kalam (dialectical theology) tradition. Islamic scholars such as Al-Ghazali (1058?1111) popularized the argument as a way to demonstrate God's existence through rational discourse. Al-Ghazali's work, notably in his *Tahafut al-Falasifa* (The Incoherence of the Philosophers), critiques the rationalist philosophers and defends the idea that the universe must have a divine cause.

Transmission to the Western World

During the Middle Ages, Christian thinkers like Thomas Aquinas and later philosophers engaged with similar ideas about causality and creation ex nihilo (creation out of nothing). However, the specific form of the kalam argument?focused on the impossibility of an actual infinity and the necessity of a first cause?was extensively articulated by Islamic scholars and transmitted to Western philosophy through translations and scholarly exchanges.

Core Structure of the Kalam Cosmological Argument

The argument is typically formulated in a logical sequence of premises leading to a conclusion that infers the existence of a necessary, uncaused cause.

Key Premises

The classical formulation of the kalam cosmological argument involves the following core premises:

- Everything that begins to exist has a cause.
- The universe began to exist.
- Therefore, the universe has a cause.

From these premises, the argument concludes:

Therefore, the cause of the universe must be uncaused, necessary, and transcendent?often identified as God.

Analyzing the Premises

- Premise 1: This is grounded in the principle of causality, a foundational idea in both philosophy and science, asserting that nothing can come into existence without a cause.
- Premise 2: This is supported by scientific evidence, especially in cosmology and physics, indicating that the universe had a beginning?such as the Big Bang.
- Conclusion: Combining these premises, the argument seeks to demonstrate that the cause of the universe cannot be contingent or finite but must be necessary and eternal.

Arguments for the Premises

Supporting the First Premise: Everything that begins to exist has a cause

This premise relies on the intuitive and logical principle that things do not come into existence without a cause. Philosophers argue that accepting uncaused existence leads to contradictions or absurdities, making causality a necessary condition for anything that begins to exist.

Supporting the Second Premise: The universe began to exist

Evidence from modern cosmology supports this premise:

- The Big Bang theory suggests that space and time themselves originated at a finite point in the past.
- Philosophical arguments against an eternal universe, such as the impossibility of an actual infinity, reinforce that the universe has a beginning.

This scientific and philosophical consensus underpins the argument that the universe is not eternal.

Logical Implications and the Concept of a Necessary Cause

The conclusion that the universe has a cause leads to the idea that this cause must be:

- **Uncaused:** It itself was not caused by anything else.
- **Necessary:** Its existence is not contingent on anything else; it must exist to explain everything else.
- **Transcendent:** It exists outside of space and time.
- **Personal or Intelligent:** Many theistic interpretations argue that the cause is an intelligent being?God?who freely chose to create the universe.

The qualities of this cause distinguish it from other potential explanations, such as natural laws or impersonal forces, emphasizing the theistic interpretation.

Criticisms and Challenges to the Kalam Cosmological Argument

Despite its compelling structure, the kalam argument faces several philosophical and scientific criticisms.

Objection: The Premise that Everything that Begins to Exist Has a Cause

Some argue that this principle, while intuitive, may not apply at the quantum level, where particles appear to pop into existence spontaneously without identifiable causes, challenging the universality of causality.

Objection: The Universe Could Be Eternal

Opponents suggest that the universe might have an eternal past, negating the need for a beginning and thus undermining the second premise. Modern cosmological models, such as steady-state theories, have historically challenged the notion of a universe with a definitive beginning.

Objection: The Nature of the Cause

Even if the universe had a cause, critics question whether this cause must be personal or intelligent. Some propose that natural laws or impersonal forces could explain the universe without invoking a divine being.

Objection: The Fallacy of Composition or Special Pleading

Critics argue that assuming the causality principle applies universally, including to the universe itself, may involve unwarranted assumptions or special pleading.

Contemporary Relevance and Defenses

Many contemporary philosophers and theologians defend the kalam cosmological argument, integrating modern scientific insights to bolster its premises.

Philosophical Defense

Defenders argue that the impossibility of actual infinities and the logical coherence of a beginning in time support the premises. They also point to the successful application of causality in scientific explanations as further evidence.

Scientific Support

Cosmology reinforces the argument by indicating the universe's finite past, with models like the Big Bang providing a scientific basis for the second premise.

Implications for Theology

The argument continues to serve as a foundation for theistic belief, offering a rational basis for the existence of God as a necessary, uncaused cause.

Conclusion

The kalam cosmological argument remains one of the most influential and debated proofs of God's existence. Its logical clarity, rooted in causality and the scientific understanding of the universe's origin, makes it a compelling framework for both believers and skeptics. While criticisms persist, ongoing philosophical and scientific developments continue to refine and challenge the argument, ensuring its relevance in contemporary discourse. Whether viewed as conclusive or as a stepping stone to further inquiry, the kalam cosmological argument exemplifies the enduring human quest to understand the fundamental cause of all that exists.

Kalam Cosmological Argument: A Comprehensive Review

The kalam cosmological argument is one of the most influential and historically significant formulations of the cosmological argument for the existence of God. Rooted in medieval Islamic philosophy and later popularized in the West by contemporary thinkers like William Lane Craig, the kalam argument seeks to demonstrate that the universe has a cause, which is identified as a necessary being, typically understood as God. This argument hinges on the premise that everything that begins to exist has a cause, and since the universe began to exist, it must have a cause outside of itself. In this review, we will explore the origins, structure, philosophical strengths and weaknesses, scientific considerations, and contemporary debates surrounding the kalam cosmological argument.

Origins and Historical Background

Early Islamic Roots

The kalam cosmological argument draws heavily from Islamic theological and philosophical traditions, particularly from medieval scholars such as Al-Ghazali (1058?1111). Al-Ghazali's version of the argument aimed to reconcile Islamic teachings with philosophical reasoning, emphasizing that the universe's existence cannot be explained by randomness or necessity alone.

Transition to the West

In the 20th century, the argument gained renewed attention through the works of William Lane Craig and others, who adapted it to contemporary philosophical and scientific contexts. Craig's formulation emphasizes the beginning of the universe as evidence for a transcendent cause, aligning with modern cosmological discoveries about the universe's origin.

The Structure of the Kalam Cosmological Argument

The kalam cosmological argument is typically presented in a syllogistic form, with key premises that lead to a conclusion about the existence of a cause of the universe.

Basic Formulation

- Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
- The universe began to exist.
- Therefore, the universe has a cause.

This conclusion then often leads to further philosophical and theological claims about the nature of this cause, such as it being uncaused, changeless, timeless, and immensely powerful attributes associated with the divine.

Key Components Explained

Premise 1: "Whatever begins to exist has a cause."

This premise is widely accepted in everyday experience and common sense. The principle of causality underpins scientific inquiry and rational explanation. However, critics question whether this principle necessarily applies at the cosmological level, especially when dealing with the universe as a whole.

Premise 2: "The universe began to exist."

This is a central point of contention. Supporters cite philosophical arguments and scientific evidence such as the Big Bang theory that suggest the universe had a beginning. Critics, however, debate the interpretation and implications of these scientific models.

Conclusion: "The universe has a cause."

From the first two premises, it follows that there must be a cause outside of the universe itself.

Proponents argue this cause is personal or necessary, thus supporting the existence of God.

Philosophical and Scientific Foundations

Philosophical Support for the Premises

Support for Premise 1

The principle that everything that begins to exist has a cause is intuitive and supported by everyday experience. Philosophers argue that causality is a fundamental aspect of reality and that the absence of cause leads to absurdities like uncaused existence or infinite regress.

Support for Premise 2

The assertion that the universe began to exist is defended through philosophical reasoning:

- The impossibility of an actual infinite: An actual infinite cannot exist in reality; thus, the universe cannot be infinitely old.
- The impossibility of an actual infinite regress: An infinite chain of past causes leads to paradoxes, implying the universe must have a beginning.

Scientific Evidence

The scientific backbone for the kalam argument is primarily the Big Bang theory, which posits that the universe expanded from an extremely hot and dense initial state approximately 13.8 billion years ago. Many physicists interpret this as evidence that the universe had a beginning.

Scientific Features Supporting the Argument

- The cosmic microwave background radiation and galactic redshift are consistent with an origin point.
- Singularity concepts in classical general relativity suggest a starting point of spacetime.

Scientific Challenges

- Some physicists propose models like the oscillating universe or quantum gravity theories, which could eliminate the need for a definitive beginning.
- The interpretation of the Big Bang as a literal beginning is debated; some argue it reflects a

boundary in our current understanding rather than an absolute temporal start.

Critical Analysis: Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths of the Kalam Cosmological Argument

- Logical Coherence: The argument is straightforward, with a clear logical structure that is accessible and compelling.
- Alignment with Scientific Discoveries: The idea that the universe has a beginning aligns with modern cosmology, providing a scientific foundation.
- Philosophical Plausibility: The rejection of actual infinities in reality lends weight to the idea that the universe's beginning requires a cause.

Weaknesses and Challenges

Philosophical Challenges

- Questioning the Principle of Causality: Some philosophers argue that causality may not apply to the universe as a whole, especially at the quantum level.
- The Nature of the Cause: Even if the universe has a cause, it does not necessarily follow that this cause is personal, omnipotent, or divine.

Scientific Challenges

- Quantum Cosmology: Certain interpretations of quantum mechanics suggest that the universe could have arisen spontaneously from quantum fluctuations, challenging the idea of a classical cause.
- Nature of Time: Some models propose that time itself began with the universe, raising questions about what it means for the cause to exist "outside" of time.

Logical and Metaphysical Issues

- The inference from a cause to a personal God involves additional arguments and is not strictly entailed by the premises.
- The possibility of multiple causes or an uncaused cause remains open to debate.

Contemporary Debates and Variations

Variants of the Kalam Argument

While the core remains the same, various philosophers and theologians have proposed modifications:

- Theistic Version: Emphasizes the personal nature of the cause?arguing that it must be a free, intelligent agent.
- Necessity Version: Suggests that the cause must be a necessary being, one that exists by its very nature.

Debates in Modern Philosophy and Science

- Some argue that quantum physics allows for events without causes, which undermines premise 1.
- Others defend the argument by claiming that quantum indeterminacy does not negate causality at the macro level or that the cause of the universe is outside quantum laws.

Conclusion: The Significance of the Kalam Cosmological Argument

The kalam cosmological argument remains a compelling and influential philosophical tool for discussing the origins of the universe and the existence of a necessary, uncaused cause?often identified as God. Its strengths lie in its logical clarity, alignment with scientific evidence, and deep philosophical roots. However, it also faces significant challenges from both scientific theories and philosophical critiques, especially regarding the nature of causality, the interpretation of scientific data, and the characteristics of the proposed cause.

Ultimately, the kalam argument continues to serve as a focal point in debates between theism and atheism, science and philosophy. Whether one finds it ultimately convincing depends largely on how one evaluates its premises and the plausibility of its inferred conclusions. As scientific understanding evolves and philosophical debates deepen, the kalam cosmological argument remains a vital and dynamic part of the discourse on the ultimate questions of existence.

Question What is the Kalam cosmological argument? The Kalam cosmological argument is a philosophical argument for the existence of a first cause or creator of the universe, asserting that everything that begins to exist must have a cause, and since the universe began to exist, it must have a cause. How does the Kalam argument support the concept of a divine creator? By arguing that the universe has a cause that is uncaused, timeless, and immaterial, the Kalam argument suggests the cause is a divine being or God, providing a foundation for theistic belief. What are the main philosophical challenges to the Kalam cosmological argument? Challenges

include debates over whether the universe truly began to exist, whether the cause must be personal or necessary, and questions about the applicability of causality to the universe as a whole. How does modern cosmology influence the validity of the Kalam argument? Advancements like the Big Bang theory support the claim that the universe had a beginning, reinforcing the Kalam argument; however, some cosmologists debate whether the beginning was actual or a result of quantum phenomena. Is the Kalam argument compatible with scientific explanations of the universe's origin? While the Kalam argument uses philosophical reasoning, many see it as compatible with scientific models like the Big Bang, though some argue it relies on metaphysical assumptions beyond empirical science. What role does the concept of causality play in the Kalam cosmological argument? Causality is central; the argument posits that everything that begins to exist must have a cause, and this principle is used to infer the existence of a necessary first cause for the universe. How do critics challenge the premise that the universe began to exist? Critics argue that quantum mechanics and other theories suggest the universe may not have a definitive beginning, or challenge whether causality applies at the quantum or cosmological level. Why is the Kalam cosmological argument considered a significant part of contemporary philosophical debates? Because it combines classical philosophical reasoning with modern scientific insights, it remains a compelling and debated argument for the existence of a necessary being or divine creator.

Related keywords: cosmological argument, Kalam cosmological argument, William Craig, universe origin, cause of universe, contingency, infinite regress, first cause, temporal causality, universe creation

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