

# Cosmological Argument

PHIL 101

Self, World, & God

## Ultimate Metaphysical Question

- Why is there something, rather than nothing?
- Taylor's translucent ball
- Principle of sufficient reason
  - There is always a reason why something is, and why it is the way that it is.
- Application to positive facts, not negative
- How do we know the principle of sufficient reason is true?
- Presupposition of human reason

## **Circumstantial Evidence**

- Cheating hypothesis
- Dick and Jane
- Modern cosmology
- Natural theology

## **Cosmological Argument**

$E_1$ . The physical universe exists.

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$T_0$ . God exists and created it.

## Rival Explanations

- T<sub>1</sub>. Secular naturalist's account.
- T<sub>2</sub>. Religious pluralist's account.

## The Big Bang

- E<sub>1</sub>. The night sky
- E<sub>2</sub>. The problem of gravity.
- E<sub>3</sub>. Einstein's general theory.
- E<sub>4</sub>. Red shift.
- E<sub>5</sub>. Hubble's Law.
- E<sub>6</sub>. Background radiation.
- E<sub>7</sub>. Distribution of H and He.

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T<sub>0</sub>. Big Bang.

# **Kalam Cosmological Argument**

**E<sub>1</sub>. The physical universe exists.**

**E<sub>2</sub>. The universe came into existence ten to twenty billion years ago.**

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**T<sub>0</sub>. God exists and created it.**

# **Alternative Explanations**

**T<sub>0</sub>. God exists and created the universe.**

**T<sub>1</sub>. Secular naturalist's account.**

**T<sub>2</sub>. Religious pluralist's account.**