

Does God Exist?

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Part I.

Arguments for God's
Existence

Preliminary: What do we mean by 'God'?

Let 'God' refer to the

- omnipotent (all-powerful),
- omniscient (all-knowing),
- omnibenevolent (all-good)

being, should there be one.

Two Arguments for God

1. Cosmological Argument
2. Ontological Argument

Cosmological Arguments

1. x exists.
2. If x exists, then something must have caused x to exist.
3. The only thing that could have caused x to exist is God.
4. Therefore, God exists.

Cosmological Argument

Example I

1. Thunder exists.
2. If thunder exists, then something caused thunder to exist.
3. The only thing that could have caused thunder to exist is God.
4. Therefore, God exists.

Cosmological Argument

Example 3

1. The universe began with a Big Bang.
2. If the universe began with a Big Bang, then something must have caused the Big Bang.
3. The only thing that could have caused the Big Bang is God.
4. Therefore, God exists.

Cosmological Argument

Example 4

1. I have an idea of God.
2. If I have an idea of God, then something must have caused me to have the idea.
3. The only thing that could have caused me to have an idea of God is God.
4. Therefore, God exists.

Two Arguments for God

1. Cosmological Argument x
2. Ontological Argument

Three Preliminaries to Ontological Argument

Necessity and Possibility

- It is necessary that all bachelors are unmarried.
- It is possible that a bachelor is evil.

Three Preliminaries to Ontological Argument

Possible Worlds = ways the world could have been

- It is necessary that all bachelors are unmarried.
 - I.e., in all possible worlds, all bachelors are unmarried.
- It is possible that some bachelor is evil.
 - I.e., in some possible world, a bachelor is evil.

Three Preliminaries to Ontological Argument

Contingent vs. Necessary Beings

- ① Contingent beings exist contingently.
 - ② E.g., humans.
 - ③ Humans would not have existed had there been no water on earth.
- ④ Necessary beings do not exist contingently.
 - ⑤ E.g., numbers.
 - ⑥ No matter how the world had been, $(2)^2=4$

Ontological Argument

1. It's possible that God exists.
2. Hence, God exists in some possible world.
3. The idea of God is the idea of a necessary being.
4. Hence, if God exists in some possible world, God exists in all possible worlds.
5. Hence, God exists in all possible worlds.
6. Hence, God exists in the actual world.

Analogy: Ontological Argument for a Largest Prime Number

1. It's possible that a largest prime number exists.
2. Hence, a largest prime exists in some possible world.
3. Numbers are necessary beings.
4. Hence, if a largest prime exists in some possible world, it exists in all possible worlds.
5. Hence, a largest prime exists in all possible worlds.
6. Hence, a largest prime exists in the actual world.

Anti-Ontological Argument

1. It's possible that God does NOT exist.
2. Hence, God does not exist in some possible world.
3. The idea of God is the idea of a necessary being.
4. Hence, if God does not exist in some possible world, God does not exist in any possible world.
5. Hence, God does not exist in any possible world.
6. Hence, God does not exist in the actual world.

Types of Possibility and Necessity

- It's impossible to fly to NY from LA in less than 4 minutes.
- Technological possibility

Types of Possibility and Necessity

- It's impossible to travel faster than the speed of light.
- Nomological possibility

Types of Possibility and Necessity

- It's impossible for there to be a female bachelor.
- Conceptual/metaphysical possibility

Types of Possibility and Necessity

- It's impossible for 2 to be odd.
 - Conceptual/metaphysical possibility

Types of Possibility and Necessity

- It's impossible for you to have been someone other than you.
- Metaphysical possibility

Types of Possibility and Necessity

- It's possible that it's raining in Denver now.
 - Epistemic possibility

Types of Possibility and Necessity

- It's possible that there is a largest prime number.
 - ✓ Epistemic possibility
 - ✗ Metaphysical possibility

Types of Possibility and Necessity

- It's possible that God exists.
 - ✓ Epistemic possibility
 - ? Metaphysical possibility

Ontological Argument Revisited

1. It's possible that God exists.
- x 2. Hence, God exists in some possible world.
3. The idea of God is the idea of a necessary being.
4. Hence, if God exists in some possible world, God exists in all possible worlds.
5. Hence, God exists in all possible worlds.
6. Hence, God exists in the actual world.

Two Arguments for God

1. Cosmological Argument x
2. Ontological Argument x