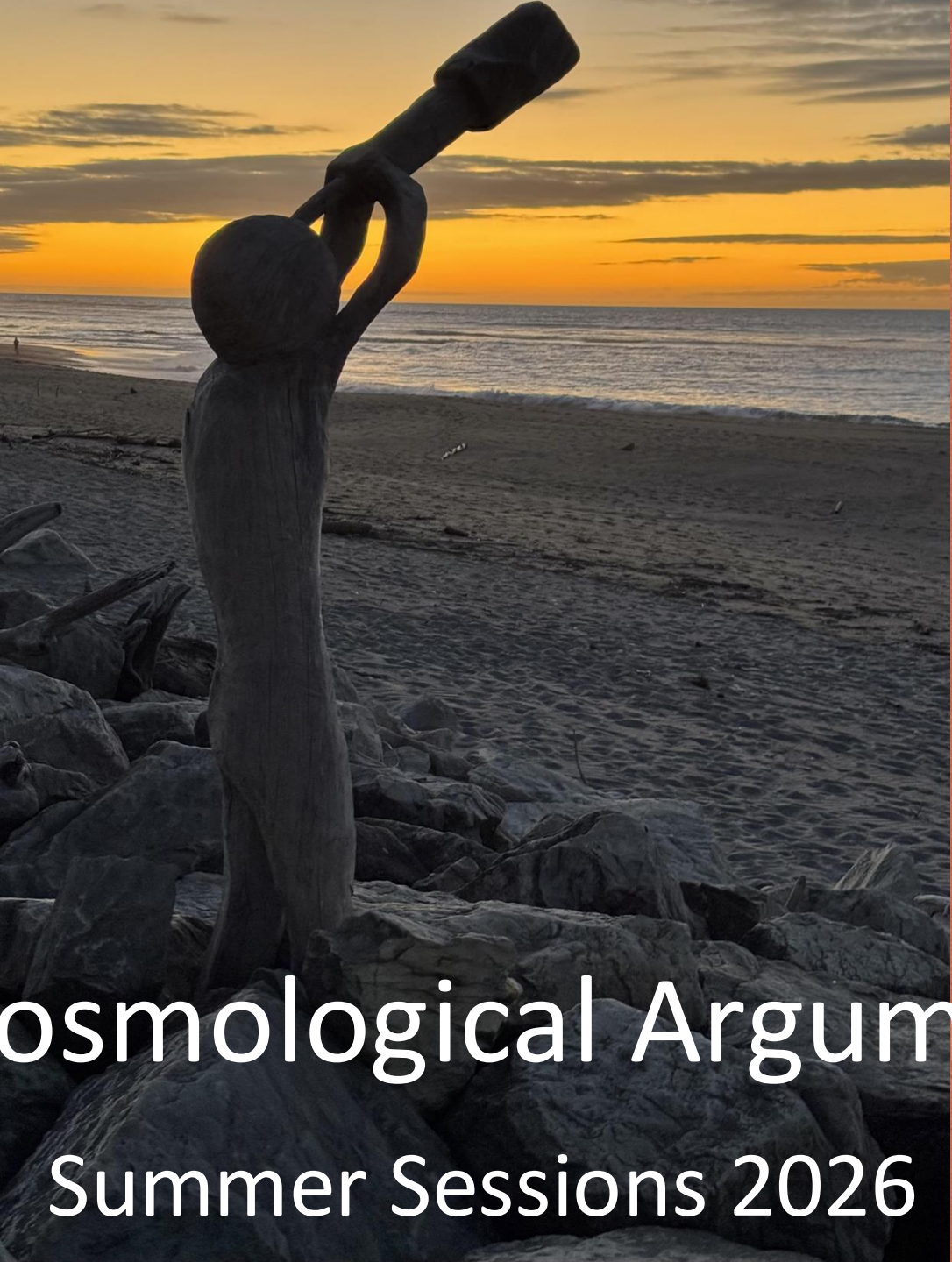




A photograph of a wooden sculpture of a person standing on a rocky shore, holding a telescope to their eye. The scene is set against a sunset sky with orange and yellow hues. The sculpture is made of dark wood and is positioned in the foreground. The background shows a beach with waves and a distant horizon.

The Cosmological Argument

Summer Sessions 2026

<u>General Revelation</u>	<u>Special Revelation</u>
Known to everyone	Those who heard/read
Natural	Supernatural
Continuous	Final/Finished
Creational	Salvific
Romans 1:19-20 Psalm 19:1	Romans 10:17 Hebrews 1:1-2 2 Peter 1:20

Types of Arguments

Deductive

Inductive

Persuasive

kalam **COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT**

CONSIDER THE UNIVERSE

BEGINNING

NO BEGINNING

CAUSED

UNCAUSED

**PERSONAL
(SUPERNATURAL)**

**IMPERSONAL
(NATURAL)**

The Kalām Cosmological Argument

P1: Whatever begins to exist must have a cause.

P2: The universe began to exist.

Therefore: The universe has a cause.

P1: Everything that begins must have a cause.

1. Something cannot come from nothing.
2. If something can come from nothing, then it becomes inexplicable why just anything or everything doesn't come into being from nothing.
3. Common experience and scientific evidence confirm the truth of Premise 1.

What About Quantum Particles?

"Quantum-mechanical events may not have classically deterministic causes, but they are not thereby uncaused or acausal. The decay of a nucleus takes place in view of physical actualities and potentialities internal to itself, in relation to a spatio-temporal nexus governed by the laws of quantum mechanics."

Quantum Particles, cont'd

The fact that uranium atoms consistently decay into atoms of lead and other elements – and not into rabbits or frogs – shows that such events are not acausal but take place within a causal nexus and lawlike structures. Accordingly, it seems plausible to assume the validity of some causal principle in such cases.

Quantum Particles, cont'd

God, knowing both the states internal to the nucleus and its external environment and governing laws, can at any given moment “see what the nucleus is about to do.”

John Jefferson Davis, *Frontiers of Science and Faith*, 55-56, as quoted in Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics*, 209.

The Kalām Cosmological Argument

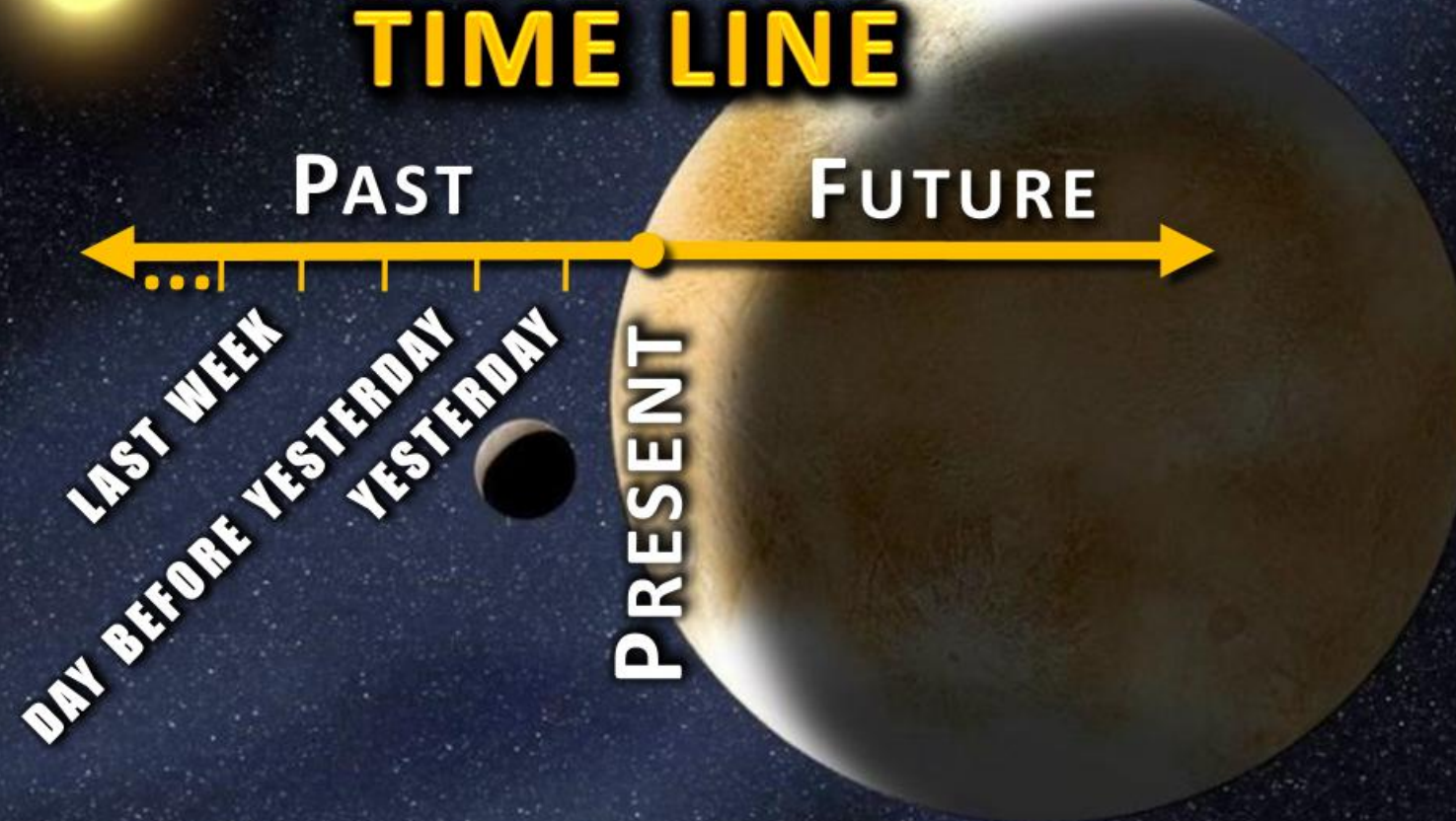
P1: Whatever begins to exist must have a cause.

P2: The universe began to exist.

Therefore: The universe has a cause.

PHILOSOPHICAL EVIDENCE

that the universe had a beginning



*If the past were infinite...
Today could never have arrived!*

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE THAT
the universe had a beginning

SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS

UNIVERSE IS EXPANDING

RADIATION AFTERGLOW

GREAT GALAXY SEEDS

EINSTEIN'S GENERAL RELATIVITY

THE UNIVERSE

had a beginning

- **SURGE**

*Second Law of
Thermodynamics*

*The universe is
running down;
it is running
out of energy.*

Usable Energy

Unusable Energy



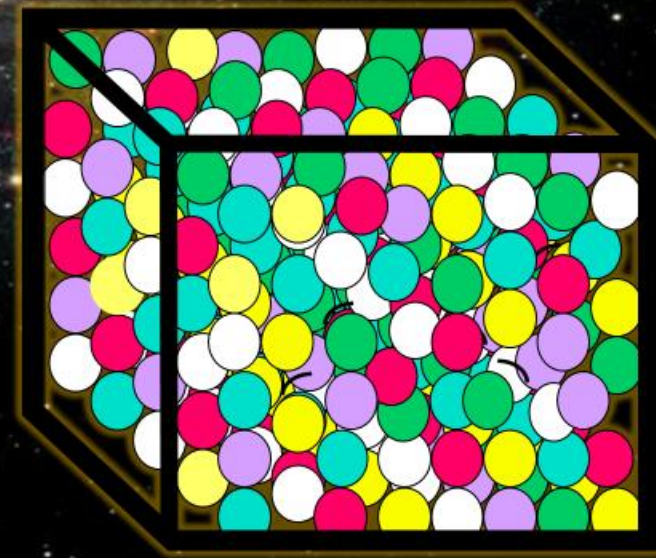
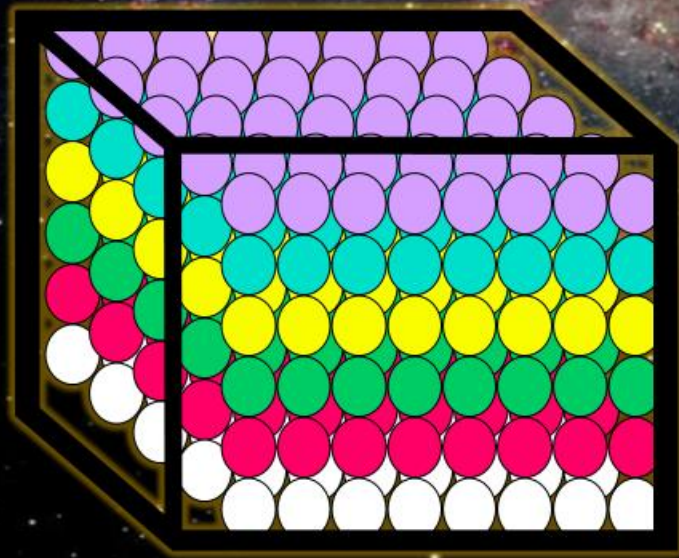
SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS

the universe is heading toward disorder

*Original System
Highly Ordered*



*Increased Disorder
With Time*



Apply the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics

If the universe is running out of useable energy, then it must have had a beginning (since it is not possible to run out of an infinite amount of energy).



THE UNIVERSE

had a beginning

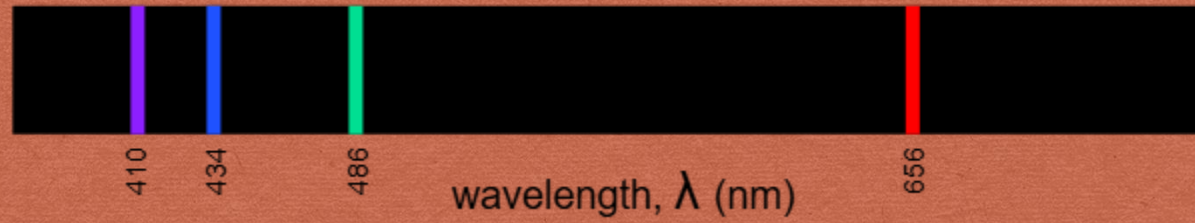
SURGE

*The Universe is
Expanding*

*If time were
reversed, the
universe would
collapse back
into nothing.*



Hydrogen Emission Spectrum



Hydrogen Absorption Spectrum



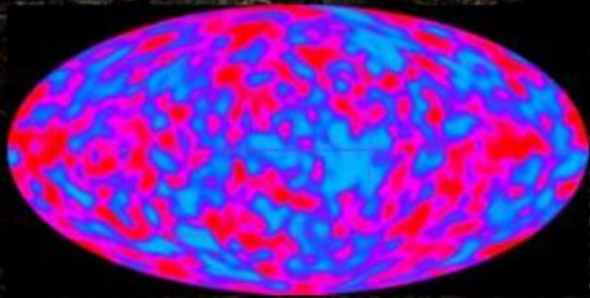
THE UNIVERSE

had a beginning

SURGE

*Radiation
Afterglow*

COBE DMR



Discovered 1965
Nobel Prize 1978

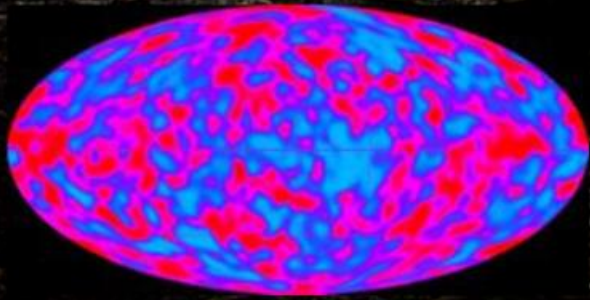
THE UNIVERSE

had a beginning

SURGE

Radiation Afterglow

COBE DMR



“No explanation other than the Big Bang has been found for the fireball radiation. The clincher, which has convinced almost the last Doubting Thomas, is that the radiation discovered by Penzias and Wilson has exactly the pattern of wavelengths expected for the light and heat produced in a great explosion.”

THE UNIVERSE had a beginning

SURGE

Great Galaxy Seeds
were discovered
via the COBE
(Cosmic Background Explorer)
satellite in 1992.

NOBEL PRIZE 2006



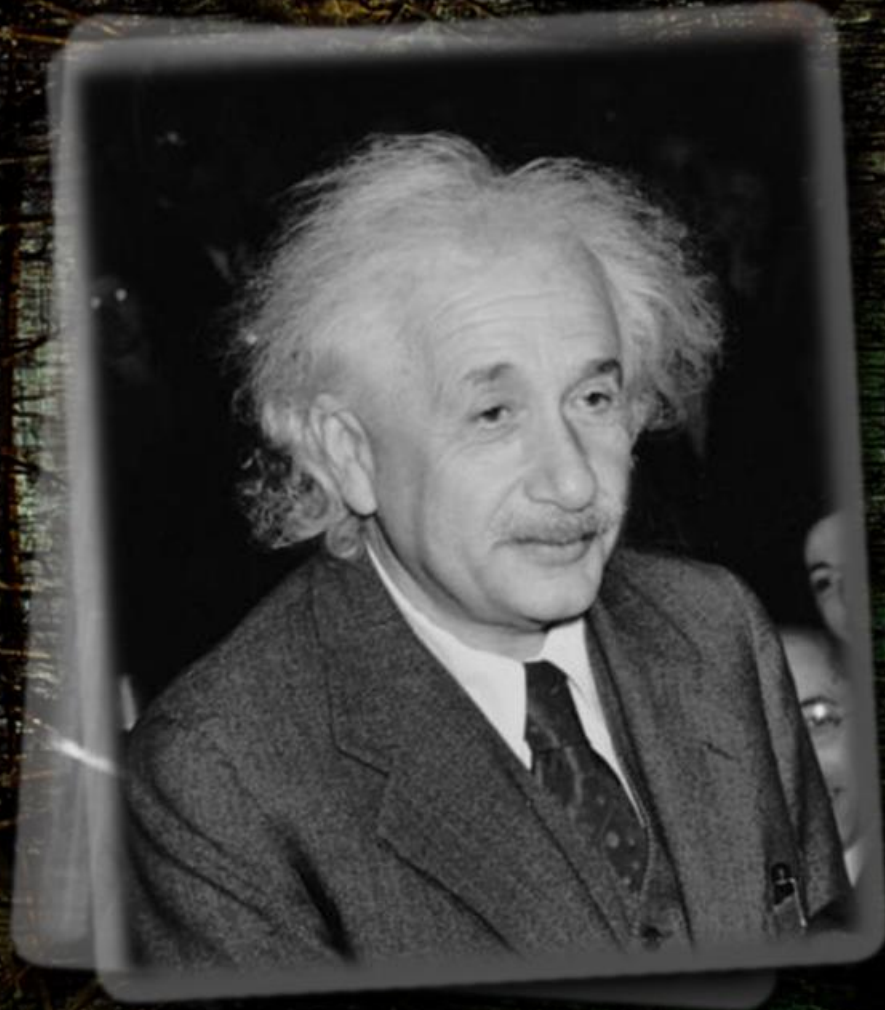
THE UNIVERSE

had a beginning

SURGE

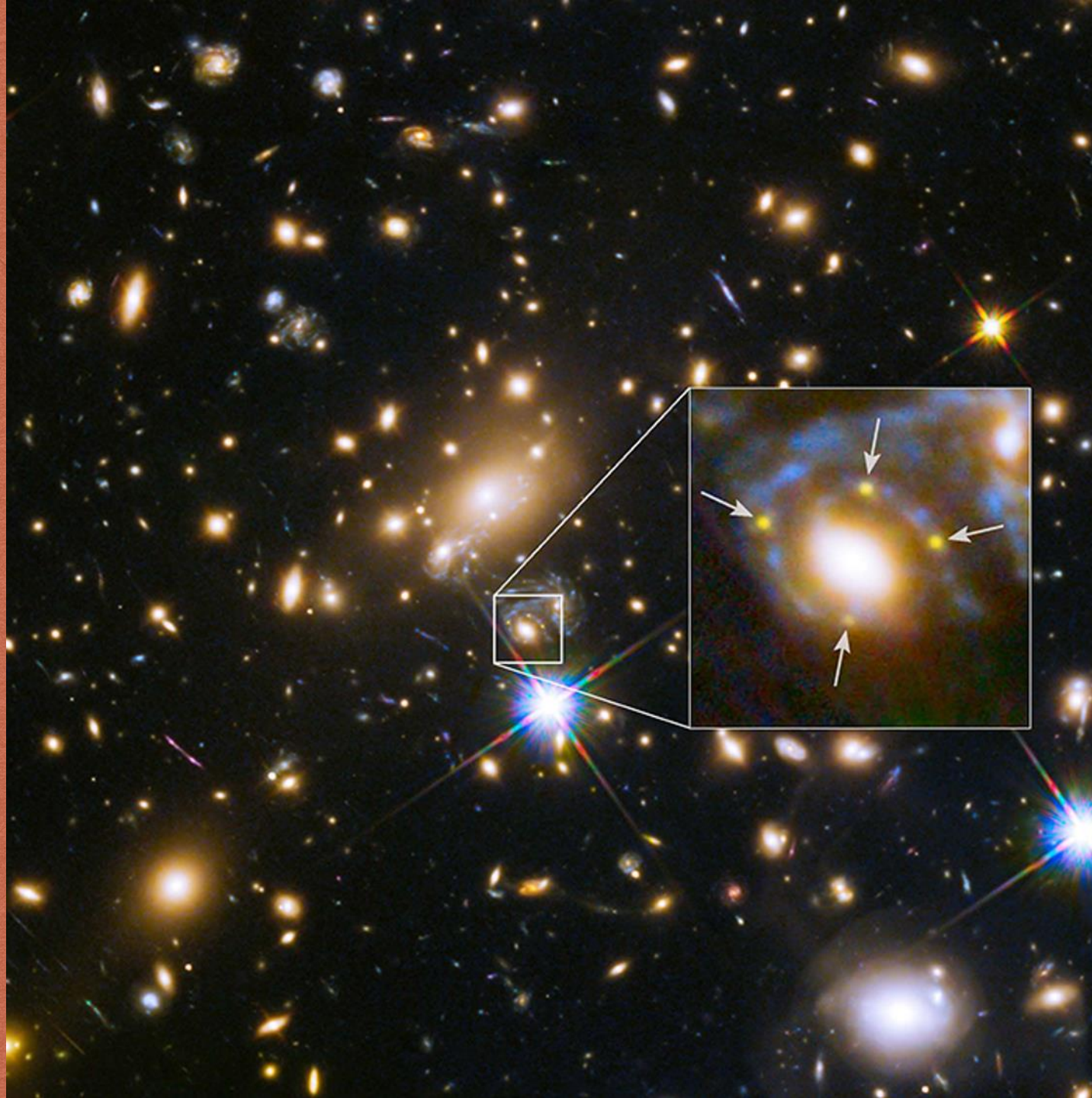
Einstein's
General
Relativity

$$E=mc^2$$



“Einstein reconceived gravity as a geometric property of spacetime, something he saw as a multidimensional “fabric” that objects having mass could warp. . . . Space tells matter how to move, and matter tells space how to curve.” - Stephen Meyer

Credit:
NASA, ESA, S. Rodney
(John Hopkins University,
USA) and the FrontierSN
team; T. Treu (University
of California Los Angeles,
USA), P. Kelly (University
of California Berkeley,
USA) and the GLASS team;
J. Lotz (STScI) and the
Frontier Fields team; M.
Postman (STScI) and the
CLASH team; and Z. Levay
(STScI)



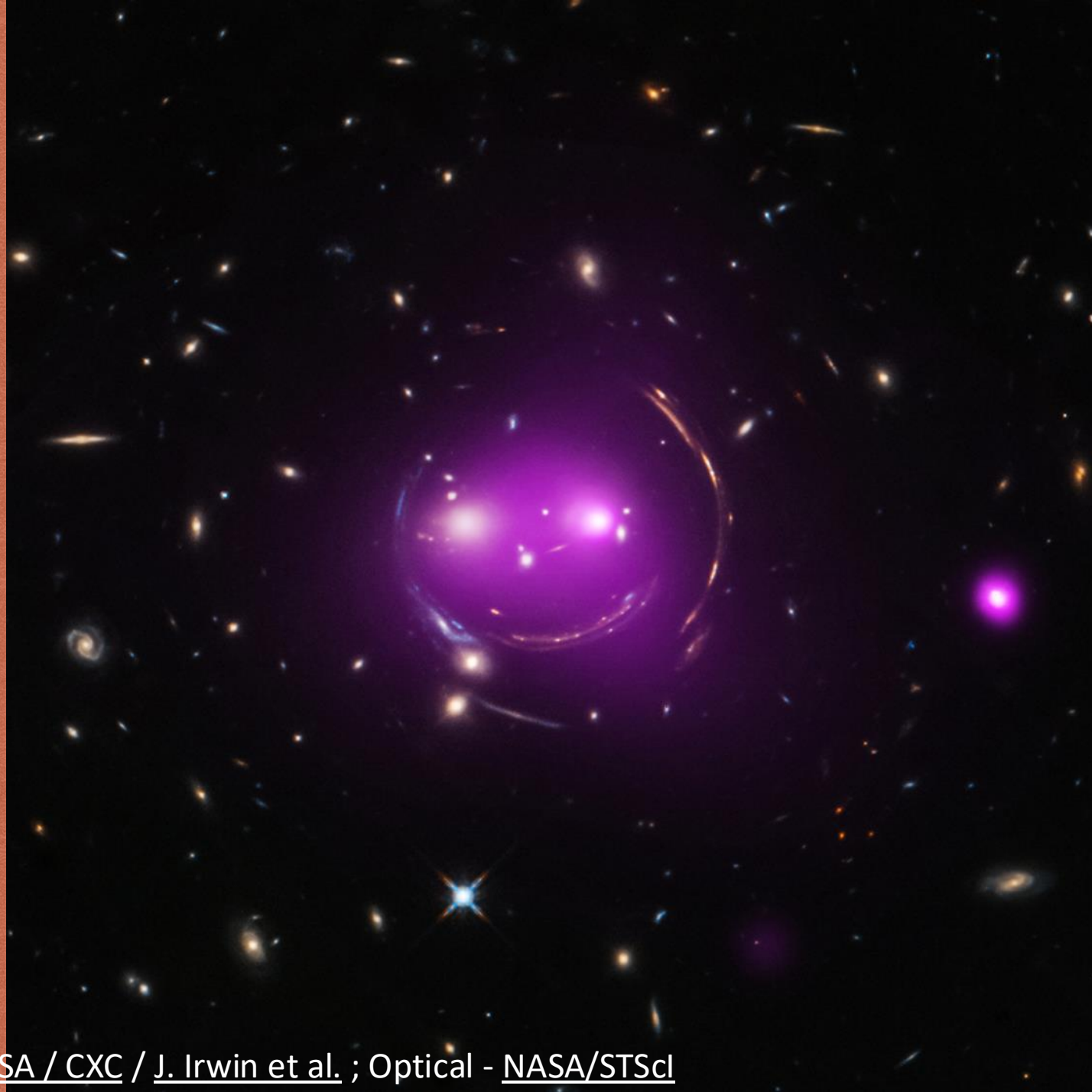


Image Credit: X-ray - [NASA / CXC / J. Irwin et al.](#) ; Optical - [NASA/STScI](#)

The Kalām Cosmological Argument

P1: Whatever begins to exist must have a cause.

P2: The universe began to exist.

Therefore: The universe has a cause.

A composite image featuring a view of Earth from space, showing the Americas and surrounding oceans. The word "BANG!" is superimposed in large, bold, white capital letters with a thick orange outline, centered over the globe. The background is a dark blue space filled with numerous small white stars. The entire image is framed by a textured, reddish-brown border.

BANG!

THE BOTTOM LINE

from Dr. Robert Jastrow

**Agnostic astronomer and founder of
Goddard Institute for Space Studies:**

“For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; He is about to conquer the highest peak; As he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

(Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers*, 116)

More Information Needed?

... You must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

Ephesians 4:17-18

Personal Creator?

1. “As Richard Swinburne points out, there are two types of causal explanation: scientific explanations in terms of laws and initial conditions and personal explanations in terms of agents and their volitions. . . . A first state of the universe cannot have a scientific explanation, since there is nothing before it, and therefore it cannot be accounted for in terms of laws operating on initial conditions. It can only be accounted for in terms of an agent and his volitions, a personal explanation.”

William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith*, Kindle page 152.

Personal Creator?

2. “Second, the personhood of the cause of the universe is implied by its timelessness and immateriality. The only entities we know of which can possess such properties are either minds or abstract objects like numbers. But abstract objects do not stand in causal relations. . . . Therefore, the transcendent cause of the origin of the universe must be of the order of the mind.”

William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith*, Kindle page 152.

Personal Creator?

3. “Third, this same conclusion is also implied by the fact that we have in this case the origin of a temporal effect from a timeless cause. . . .The cause is in some sense eternal and yet the effect which it produced is not eternal but began to exist a finite time ago. How can this be? If the necessary and sufficient conditions for the production of the effect are eternal, then why isn’t the effect eternal? How can all the causal conditions sufficient for the production of the effect be changelessly existent and yet the effect not also be existent along with the cause? How can the cause exist without the effect?”

William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith*, Kindle page 153.

God is Self-Existent

For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. – John 5:26

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. – Acts 17:25

Objections to the Cosmological Argument

- 1. Straw Man Fallacy**
2. Philosophical Presuppositions
3. Fallacy of Composition
4. Multiverse
5. Quantum Theory “Spontaneous Events”

How NOT to state the Cosmological Argument

P1: Everything that exists must have a cause.

P2: The universe exists and so must have a cause.

Therefore: The universe is caused by a first cause (God).

The Kalām Cosmological Argument

P1: Whatever begins to exist must have a cause.

P2: The universe began to exist.

Therefore: The universe has a cause.

Objections to the Cosmological Argument

1. Straw Man Fallacy
2. **Philosophical Presuppositions**
3. Fallacy of Composition
4. **Multiverse**
5. Quantum Theory “Spontaneous Events”

Philosophical Presuppositions

“An infinite universe would relieve us of the necessity of understanding the origin of matter at any finite time in the past.”

Physicist Robert Dicke, quoted in the 2026 film , The story of Everything, 24:45.

Objections to the Cosmological Argument

1. Straw Man Fallacy
2. Philosophical Presuppositions
- 3. Fallacy of Composition**
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Objections to the Cosmological Argument

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Objections to the Cosmological Argument

1. Straw Man Fallacy
2. Philosophical Presuppositions
3. Fallacy of Composition
4. Multiverse
5. Quantum Theory “Spontaneous Events”

Quantum Theory

"Because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing. Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist. It is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touch paper and set the universe going."

Stephen Hawking, *The Grand Design*, .

Conclusion

“Given the metaphysical impossibility of the universe coming into being from nothing, belief in a supernatural Creator is eminently reasonable. At the very least we can say confidently that the person who believes in the doctrine of *creatio ex nihilo* will not find himself contradicted by the empirical evidence of contemporary cosmology, but on the contrary, fully in line with it.”

William Lane Craig, *The Story of the Cosmos*, page 200.



Questions?