

The EP Conjecture¹

A.D. Hartford (2020)

(0) **Something** and **Nothing** are collectively exhaustive (the only 2 categories) & mutually exclusive: therefore there must be **something** or **nothing**: 1 or the other, not neither, not both.

(2) IF there *ever* is **something** there must have been at least 1 **something** with *always* logical status because you cannot get a basis, a root language/system, without a basis; so, if an original basis is to *ever* exist, that basis must have *always* existed; and where at least 1 basis is necessary for any kind of existence.

(3) We exist as at least 1 **something**.

(4) Therefore, there must have been at least 1 **something** in the Eternal Past (including a basis), the place of things with always logical status. There is nothing before always; thus, the Eternal Past is the analytical 1st place, existing as the one global 0 across the totality. By the nature of always (0), the EP exists all together, all at once, and before all time/process. What exists in the Eternal Past is therefore necessarily un-caused & a-chronologically self-sufficient (A exists 'as is' in full without original process); not self-caused ($A \rightarrow A$) or emergent ($_ \rightarrow A$). No paths end in the Eternal Past.

(5) The Eternal Past, of which there is 1 across the totality, couldn't have been different than it is: it must have been 'as is' (i.e. there is only 1 possible and necessary original condition globally, where this originality *is* the 1st totality, and the 1st totality is all that there originally is). We recognize its necessity because at least 1 always **something** is required (by us), always exists as 1 system (so there is only 1 possibility, as there is nothing before always), and because the EP couldn't be different. Therefore, that 1 is logically Necessary. However, the Necessity is inherent in its nature, in the nature of always, not by our confirming epistemology.

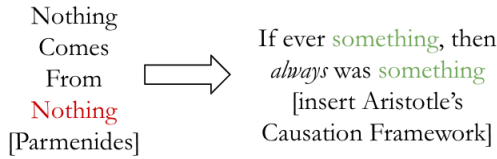
(6) The Eternal Future \geq Eternal Past. The Eternal Future cannot be less than the Eternal Past because the carryforward of *necessary* prior logical history is a global self-coherence principle. The Eternal Future thus *includes* the EP and therefore cannot be logically "less than".

(7) Therefore, there can never have been *only* **Nothing** from the Eternal Past (always; the un-beginning origin; the 1st place) to the Eternal Future (forever; the un-ending onwards; the last place) because there must have been at least 1 **something** in the Eternal Past; that's "why".

¹ The argument does not claim that *our* universe is past eternal, and is un-altered whether it is or isn't! This is the a-cosmological argument because anyone in any possible world, regardless of their own local cosmology, and even if they were in a simulation, can find this exact same argument. This said, one of the curious conclusions of this argument is that "for each to themselves": the original identity axiom can be recognized & then postulated *only as a per se notum input* axiom because no paths end in the Eternal Past; *necessarily only by & to oneself*.

As an A-cosmological argument: The nature of always reveals why nothing is impossible

Cosmological Arg

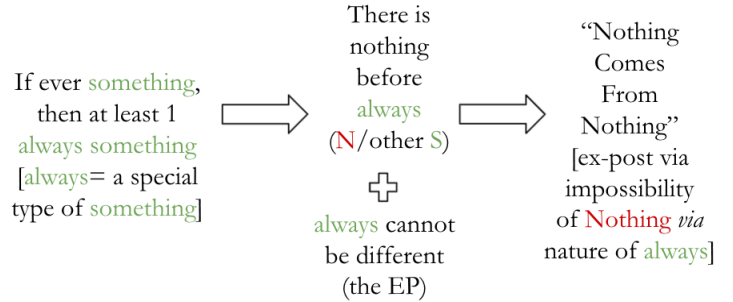


Ancient Theists: No ∞ regress possible, so the sequacity must terminate with uncaused 1st cause

Modern Rationalists: Infinite series nullify that idea.

EPC: Both are backwards by thinking backwards! You think only *from* the Eternal Past, not to the Eternal Past because 0 paths end in the EP & it is 1st. The EP (0) is given logical priority in 1st establishing original footing.

A-Cosmological Arg



EPC 1.0: *Always* arises as an analytical condition: because you cannot get a **system** without a **system**; so, if you *ever* have an original **system** (a "basis"), that system *always* existed. *Always* is a special kind of **something** (existing in full without original process).

EPC 2.0: *Always* is a place (the 1st place, the one 0).

As an Ontological Argument: 1 original possibility as the only 1st "where" & only 1st "what"

The Eternal Past: The Place of Always

