

Is reality deterministic?

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Intellectuals have been debating the idea of determinism since the time of the ancient Greeks, but determinism became especially popular as a result of the predictive accuracy of Newton's theory of gravity in the late 1600s. Newton's theory famously gave rise to the idea of the clockwork universe, as if the activity of the universe could be modeled deterministically like that of a clock that God had created and set in motion to go on ticking forever.

A century later, at the end of the 1700s, Laplace became known for espousing determinism. And 150 years later, Einstein — brilliant as he was — could not adjust his mental disposition to think indeterministically about reality despite the Heisenberg uncertainty principle and the predictive accuracy of quantum mechanics.

It turns out that it's not difficult to prove that determinism implies a contradiction and, hence, is false. I have presented such a proof in my books *Why? In Pursuit of the Ultimate Answer* (2008) and *Why Human Life Makes Sense* (2011, 2012). In this meeting I will present the proof.

The last meeting on knowledge and this meeting on determinism will set the stage for discussing freewill in the next meeting.

Meeting format

At the meeting, I will present my proof that reality is indeterministic. Then we'll discuss all ramifications of the topic of interest to the members.