

# Some Reflections on the Ontology of Time and Philosophy of Contradiction

mohammad mozammel hoque

## [lecture handout/synopsis]

**Measurement of time** vs Ontology of time. What is time?

**A-theory of time: – presentism** – only present is the real. **Sam Harris'** presentism. no present but only past and future. **like quantum superposition. open universe. Heraclitus's change theory.**

**B-theory of time: eternalism** – past, present and future, all are equally real. **block universe. Parmenides's concept of tenseless reality.**

**McTaggart 's paradox of time:** **(1)** If time is real then either the A-theory or the B-theory accurately describes time as I know it. **(2)** But if the B-theory is true nothing ever really changes. **(3)** If nothing ever really changes, time is not real. **(4)** So, if the B-theory is true, time is not real. **(5)** But if the A-theory is true, a contradiction follows. **(6)** No contradiction is true. **(7)** So, the A-theory cannot be true. **(8)** So, neither the A-Theory nor the B-theory accurately describes time as we know it. **(9)** So, time is not real.

**Criticism of McTaggart:** **(1)** If time is unreal, then it must be an illusion. If it is illusion, then it there must be a 'cause' of it. But, we can't locate any source of that illusion. Therefore, time is not an illusion. **(2)** We can locate the becoming of the 'wrong' concept of Pegasus. But we fail to find any 'cause' of 'time-illusion'.

**Arrow of time:** Time flow may be curved. metaphysical impossibility of backward flow of time

Difference between physical, metaphysical and epistemological sense of understanding.

Backward or reverse causation. **beginning of time.** why Big bang happened?

**Time travel** is metaphysically impossible. So-called, grandfather paradox. History, archeology and reality from ontological point of view.

**Necessary aspects of ontological line of argument: Exclusiveness:** exclusiveness of entity, (if P then P). Positive necessity and negative necessity: necessary inclusions and necessary exclusions. Past can't be altered, unless making or being a 'new past'.

**Big bang:** Why has time began? Compare to space, **is time emergent, real or fundamental?**

Or, space and time are expressions of some more fundamental 'neutral' entity? Russell's theory of **neutral monism.**

The **myth of multiverse:** conclusiveness of the concept of "the biggest ..."

**Is time relative?** Absoluteness of time in the context of the **speed of light** vs relativity of time. **Feel of time** vs reality of time. Temporal relativity is an observer-dependent phenomenon.

**What is the omni-clock hypothesis?** either, everything has a clock, or, everything itself is a kind of clock, or, the world itself is a giant clock, having small clocks within.

**accuracy of time measurement:** as the speed of light, why time is same and constant everywhere? **Nature?**

**what is nature?** What do we experience? 'Nature' itself? Or, works or aspects of nature? What is the true nature of the 'nature'? Without any sort of **personal agency**, how nature

works intelligently? Any form of simulation, must have reality-location, no matter distorted or not. What is source of **human super-intelligence?**

From our experience of **constant change (?)** to the concept of time: what makes the change? Time? ... involves a circular argument.

**Is time an experience, assumption or intuition? Experience and time circularity. Representation or quantification of time.** Is there any **qualification problem** in time measurement?

Time is a **Kantian undefined category**. Nothing is free of **'the time-factor'** in either form. Not even God or big-bang. If there is **'zero-time'**, mathematically there must be something like **'negative time'** or minus-time...! Is this idea counter-intuitive? Or, fact?

**determinism vs indeterminism: A-theory** is for indeterminism. **B-theory** is for determinism.

From **wide content view**, from outside the world, determinism is right and logical.

From **narrow content view**, i.e., from an observer-dependent inside point of view, indeterminism is right.

**Human incapacity of defining the ontological reality of:** time, temperature, life, identity of self or personhood, truth, justice, good, consciousness etc.

**Limitation of logical definition and epistemological proof:** definiendum = definiens  
infinite regress problem and the regress argument.

**The trilemma:** infinity, circularity and contradiction.

**Philosophy of Contradiction:** Philosophy of contradiction is the basic structure of knowledge and justification. **Foundationalism vs coherentism**. Coherentism is a form of foundationalism.

Why the fundamental **laws of nature** are fundamental? why not others, or, otherwise? why **axioms** are just **axioms?** Is tautology inevitable in ontology?

Is there any **ultimate building block?** From a **reductionist approach**, we find nothing but some **mathematical entities** at the bottom level of **physical reality**. But mathes are mere abstract realities.

We have to have a **theory of everything**, no matter it is a/the God to someones, Or, nature to others.

**Pregnant with reality:** We are pregnant with reality. There is no really real reality out there. At Least, we can't prove that. But feel it intrinsically from a first-person point of view. By using the ontological way of understanding, we most justifiably assume a really real reality out there.

**Ethics and exclusiveness of philosophy of contradiction:** (1) to be aware of and (2) confess and (3) try the best to delimit the inherent contradictions

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