

Circular God Counter-paradox

Resolution to the “Paradox of the Stone”

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Overview

The omnipotence paradox refers to a paradoxical situation where an omnipotent being is forced to limit its powers while remaining omnipotent and do so all at the same time. It is considered logically impossible. This paradox is commonly used as an argument against the existence of an omnipotent God and any concepts of true omnipotence.

The omnipotence paradox is based on *reductio ad absurdum* (Latin for “reduction to absurdity”) which is the process of reducing an argument or hypothesis to the state of absurdity. An argument's premises or conclusions are pushed to their logical limits leading to the most ridiculous, absurd, or impractical conclusions. This results in the disproving, discrediting or otherwise negating of whatever the original argument or hypothesis may have been.

The classic paradox of the stone has existed for literally centuries. The beauty of this particular version of an omnipotence paradox is that it is not based on a flawed premise or error in logical from the very start (such as, "Can God make $2+2=5$?" or "Can God make a square circle?"). We already know that $2+2\neq 5$ and that circles are not squares by design, so we haven't given an omnipotent, all-powerful God a fair shot at demonstrating pure omnipotence. However, to ask God to create something new, so pure and simple as a rock, strikes at the very heart of God's omnipotence.

Let's play some football!

Consider logical thinking within an argument in the same way you would an active play during a game of professional football. There are specific rules that must be followed during the game and both teams must abide by these rules. If a player on either team breaks one of these rules, then the team is assessed a penalty. Should a player commit a personal foul, a yellow flag gets tossed and a fifteen yard penalty is assessed to the offending team. Should this personal foul go unpunished or unresolved, then the helmets fly off, chaos ensues and the victimized team argues that the entire game is unfair.

On the unusual occasion that a personal foul is committed by players from both teams, the result is a situation consisting of conflicting penalties. So how should we proceed? The only fair and logical thing to do is consider both personal fouls as offsetting penalties. In this situation, no yards or downs are gained or lost by either team, the entire play is nullified and everyone returns to the original line of scrimmage as if nothing ever happened.

The only penalty that is suffered is that a few seconds of time have slipped away from the game clock.

Like football, there are specific rules to be followed when presenting a valid argument, one of which is that any questions or statements relating to a valid argument must be founded in logical thinking. Forming a question in a way that results in a logical paradox is technically *breaking a rules* of logical thinking. You knowingly create an unfair advantage over any logic-based opposition to your argument by trapping them within a seemingly unanswerable paradox.

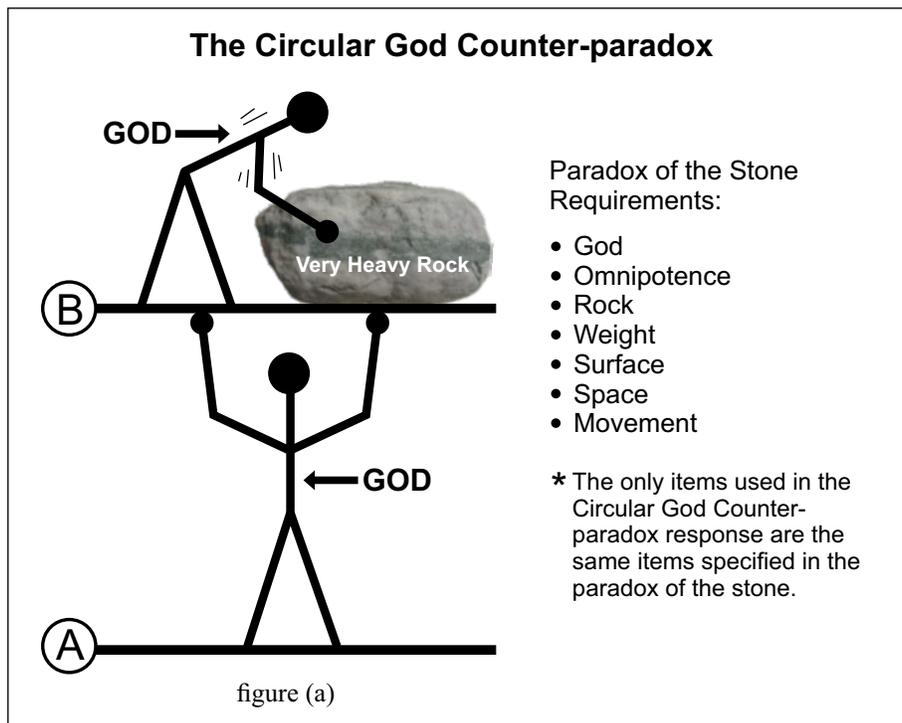
Overview (Cont.)

If you break this rule and get away with it, whomever is attempting to counter your argument will argue that the entire debate is unfair. In the case of the paradox of the stone, the presenter of this question has gotten away with this rule violation for literally centuries.

So now we have a situation where the “Paradox of the Stone” has been resolved with another paradox of equal power called the “Circular God Counter-paradox.” The end result is that the premise of the question is nullified, the two conflicting paradoxes are considered offsetting penalties and everyone is required to return to the intellectual line of scrimmage as if nothing ever happened.

The only penalty that is suffered is that eight centuries of time have slipped away from history’s game clock.

So how is this “offsetting penalties” philosophy applied to the paradox of the stone?



God, being omnipotent, space-savvy and ubiquitous, would have himself exist simultaneously on Plane (A) and Plane (B). After fashioning a rock with a weight sufficient to exceed his ability to lift, the rock is positioned on Plane (B) where we find God attempting to lift the rock. On Plane (A) we have God physically lifting Plane (B), which already holds both God and the very heavy rock ...and all done so at the exact same moment. See figure (a).

So the answer is “Yes!” God can create a rock so heavy that he couldn’t lift it while simultaneously maintaining omnipotence.

Explanation:

The original paradoxical question hasn't really been answered or solved as no paradoxical question can be answered or solved by design. What has happened is that the entire premise of "questionable omnipotence" found within the original paradoxical question has been resolved by way of a counter-paradox. The original paradoxical question no longer possesses any power...

It has been *neutralized*.

Infinite Expansion of the Circular God Counter-paradox

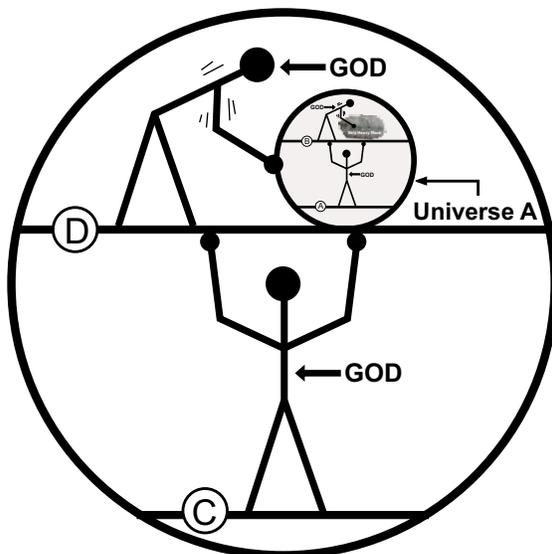
The "Circular God Counter-Paradox" response to the "Paradox of the Stone" can be infinitely expanded to help in the understanding of omnipotence. This also counters any attempts at regression should the "Paradox of the Stone" be subsequently modified to ask, "Can God create a stone so heavy that he cannot lift it and the plane that it is on?"

Infinite Expansion Explained

Planes (A) and (B) can be placed within a self-contained universe (Universe A) and then the Circular God formula reapplied to the entire situation within Universe (B).

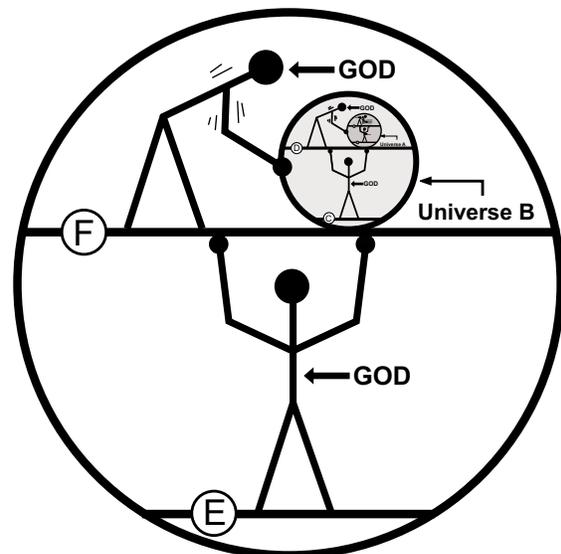
While everything is simultaneously playing out in Universe (A), we also find God on Plane (D) attempting to lift Universe (A). On Plane (C) we have God physically lifting Plane (D), which already holds God, Universe (A), two more of God which are contained within Universe (A) and, of course, the very heavy rock ...and all done so at the exact same moment. See figure (b).

The entire process can be taken to yet another level within Universe (C). This same Circular God scenario can be continued throughout infinity. See figure (c).



Universe B

figure (b)



Universe C

figure (c)

Objections and Responses

The following represents a list of potential objections and responses associated with the Circular God Counter-paradox resolution:

Objection: God is technically lifting the rock from Plane (A), so there is no rock present in the counter-paradox that he cannot lift.

Response: The rock that God cannot lift is located on Plane (B).

Objection: Then there does exist a rock that God cannot lift on Plane (B).

Response: The rock on Plane (B) is being raised by God from Plane (A).

Objection: Then there does exist a single point in time where God is not lifting the rock on Plane (B).

Response: There exists the exact same moment in time where God is lifting the rock on Plane (A).

Objection: God cannot be in two places at the same time.

Response: God is ubiquitous. Ubiquity is an accepted characteristic of omnipotence (i.e., *omnipresent*).

Objection: It is logically impossible to be lifting a rock at the same time that you are not lifting the same rock.

Response: A being that is not omnipotent and ubiquitous would not be able to accomplish this task. However, God is omnipotent and ubiquitous, therefore it is possible.

Objection: You have not answered the question. You have merely created a larger paradox.

Response: There is no size associated to a paradox. All requirements of the original question have been fully resolved with the counter-paradox.

Objection: A paradox cannot neutralize another paradox.

Response: Demonstrate where the Circular God Counter-paradox has failed to neutralize the original paradox.

Objection: This counter-paradox does not neutralize all omnipotence paradox type of questions.

Response: This counter-paradox was specifically designed to address the paradox of the stone. A different omnipotence question would require a differently designed response.