

THE PRIVILEGED PRESENT

DEFENDING AN “A-THEORY” OF TIME
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A-THEORY

A-theory says that there is a difference between the past, present, and future.

B-theory says there is only the relationship of chronology (what happened before, during, or after).

Zimmerman is an A-theorist and a presentist.

There are several different A-theories

Presentism

Moving-spotlight theory

Growing block theory



PRESENTISM

Presentists say that past and future events do not exist.

This is not to say that they never existed or will not exist, but that they do not exist now.

Objections to presentism

Truthmakers



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OTHER A-THEORIES

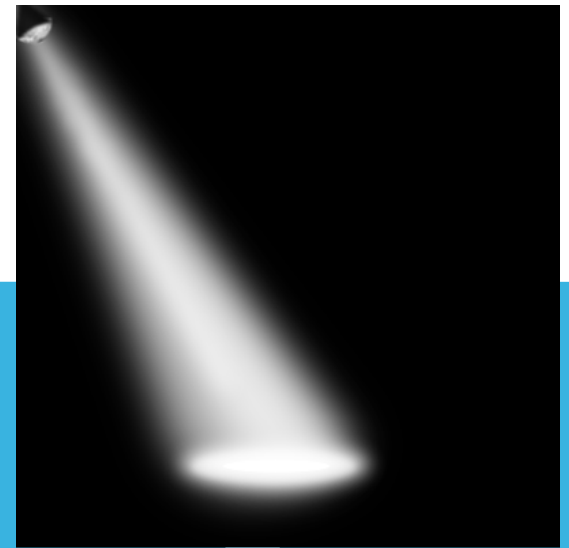
Moving-spotlight theory says that all events exist in a four-dimensional universe, but the present is lit by a spotlight which makes it special.

Growing block theory says that the past and present exist but the future does not because nothing will come after it. The present is the cutting edge of a growing history.

Zimmerman says these theories don't explain the way we view the past as different from the present

Headache

Which is the best A-theory?



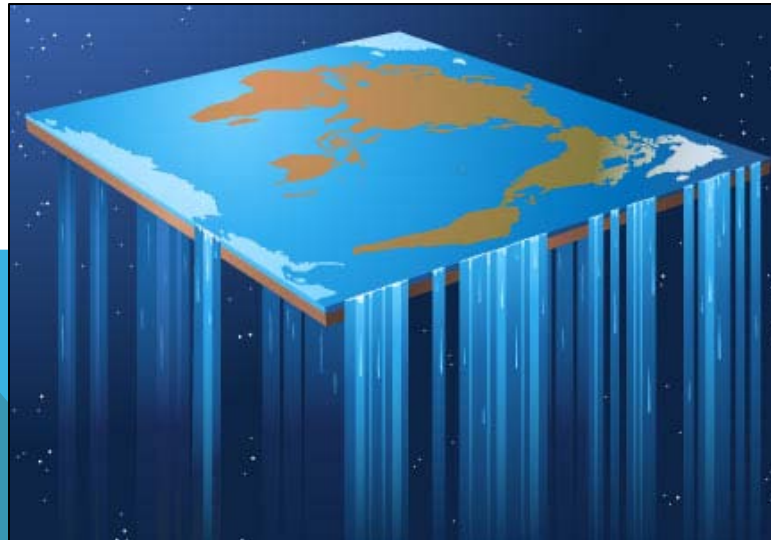
A-THEORY VS. B-THEORY

Some opponents claim there is a conflict between A-theory and relativity.

Zimmerman says since A-theory appeals to our common sense understanding of the world, we should believe it.

But other commonsense ideas are decidedly not true.

Should we believe in A-theory because our common sense tells us to?



**Is there a difference between
past, present, and future?
If so, what is the difference?**

