



## Original Article

# The function of inferring the best explanation of Peter Lipton in solving the conflict between science and religion

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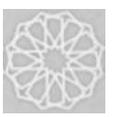
## Abstract

One of the important issues in the philosophy of religion, which can be investigated with new inferential approaches, is the opposition between science and religion. Inferring the best explanation as a new deductive method can help the philosopher of religion provide a new solution to this problem. Therefore, some philosophers of religion have recently investigated the relationship between science and religion using this method. This study tried to examine all aspects of how this type of inference can be used in solving the conflict between science and religion. In doing so, in the first step, the inference of the best explanation was described based on Peter Lipton's model, and in the next step, different solutions to the problem of conflict between science and religion were examined by applying the inference of the best explanation. What has been obtained in this study is proof of the general efficiency of this type of inference in solving the problem of opposition. However, according to this research, this type of inference is ineffective in providing a definitive answer to the problem of opposition; it can be used in the process of providing the correct answer.

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## Extended abstract

One of the most important issues in the field of philosophy of religion, which can be investigated with new inferential approaches, is the issue of the conflict between science and religion. The conflict between science and religion may have been seriously manifested for the first time in the 16th century during the trial of Galileo. Much earlier, the trial of this opposition had taken root among Christians. Of course, what was presented as the incompatibility of science and religion was actually the incompatibility of the new science with the Aristotelian system and Ptolemaic astronomy, which were accepted by the church. In other words, the new science had clashed with another science that was not the product of the church, and the church was the only defender of traditional science, but this confrontation introduced Galileo as a symbol of the defense of modern science against religion. Galileo's work was characterized by a quantitative description of nature, which was not consistent with many non-quantitative descriptions common in the church. After Galileo, the leader of science in the West was Newton, who, in a way, influenced Kant's philosophy with his new physics, which was the beginning of the marginalization of religion in front of science. In the meantime, with his theory of evolution, Darwin tried to provide a natural description of the creation of different types of creatures without referring to the

divine interpretation of creation, which, over time, made the conflict between science and religion more serious.

Of course, different views about the relationship between science and religion emerged as a result of the development of modern science. Opposition is only one of these views. The inference of the best explanation as a new deductive method that some philosophers of science have presented in explaining the method of research and discovery can help the philosopher of religion in providing a new solution to this problem; therefore, some philosophers of religion have investigated the relationship between science and religion using this method. The present research tried to examine all the ways in which this type of inference can be used in solving the conflict between science and religion. In doing so, in the first step, the inference of the best explanation was described based on Peter Lipton's model, and in the next step, different solutions to the conflict between science and religion were examined by applying the inference of the best explanation. What has been obtained in this study is proof of the general efficiency of this type of inference in solving the problem of opposition. However, according to this research, this type of inference is ineffective in providing a definitive answer to the problem of opposition; it can be used in the process of providing the correct answer.