



Research Paper

A Philosophical Analysis of the Application of String Theory in Atheistic Arguments

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Abstract

This article critically examines the philosophical foundations of arguments that use string theory to deny the existence of God, demonstrating that these arguments are rooted in an extreme positivist approach. This perspective, which only considers knowledge from empirical evidence and physical models as valid, attempts to solve metaphysical problems with scientific tools. However, we argue that such an approach involves a category mistake, as physics addresses the "how" of the universe, while questions regarding the existence of a Creator belong to the realm of "why" and metaphysics. Subsequently, the article meticulously analyzes arguments such as the multiverse and the self-sufficiency of physical laws, showing that these ideas, even if scientifically valid, do not fully answer fundamental questions about the ultimate origin of existence and the nature of these laws. It is also noted that due to its hypothetical nature and lack of empirical evidence, string theory cannot serve as a definitive basis for philosophical conclusions. Ultimately, this article concludes that string theory, rather than being a threat to theology, can act as a catalyst for deeper reflections on the relationship between science and faith. By understanding that both science and religion seek truth within their own domains, one can achieve synergy instead of conflict.

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Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

This article provides a philosophical critique of atheistic arguments that rely on string theory to challenge the existence of God. Such arguments often emerge from an extreme positivist framework that considers only empirical knowledge and physical models as legitimate forms of understanding. The study argues that this perspective leads to a category mistake by applying scientific tools—designed to describe the mechanisms and structures of the physical universe—to questions that belong to the domain of metaphysics, such as the origin and purpose of existence. Through a careful analysis of key claims associated with string theory, including the multiverse hypothesis and the alleged self-sufficiency of natural laws, the article demonstrates that these concepts, even if scientifically viable, fail to provide comprehensive answers to ultimate metaphysical questions. Additionally, it highlights the speculative nature of string theory and the absence of empirical confirmation, which renders it an unsuitable foundation for firm philosophical or theological conclusions.

2. Methods

The study employs a philosophical-analytic methodology. First, it deconstructs atheistic arguments grounded in string-theoretic interpretations to identify their underlying epistemological assumptions. Second, it examines the conceptual boundaries between scientific explanation (how) and metaphysical reasoning (why). Third, the article evaluates scientific claims such as the multiverse and law self-sufficiency

using principles from metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of science. Finally, comparative analysis is used to show how scientific theories may inform but cannot replace metaphysical inquiry.

3. Results

The paper shows that even if certain physical ideas are scientifically sophisticated, they may not be able to fully answer deeper questions such as the ultimate origin of existence and the nature of laws. It further argues that string theory cannot provide a decisive foundation for philosophical conclusions because it remains speculative and lacks sufficient empirical evidence for firm inference. Ultimately, the analysis concludes that string theory should not be viewed merely as a threat to theology; instead, it can function as a catalyst for deeper reflection on the relationship between science and faith. By recognizing that science and religion each pursue truth within their respective domains, one can move from confrontation toward complementarity.

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Authors' contribution

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Conflict of interest

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