

Attempts to make inferences to the Material World

The material world

- Berkeley used three arguments in *The Dialogues* to show that primary qualities are in the mind
- Consider this definition: “Material substance is understood to be some entity or stuff in principle unperceivable and unperceiving which supports qualities that are not in any mind...matter is an inert senseless substance in which extension, figure, and motion do actually exist”

- “That ideas should exist in what doesn’t perceive, or be produced by what does not act, is self-contradictory”

Non-materialistic analysis of physical objects

- 1. It is impossible to conceive of something that is not conceived of
- 2. If its impossible to conceive of something, then it doesn't exist.
- 3. Nothing exists which isn't conceived of
- Therefore physical objects are collections of qualities and can't exist unperceived.

Modern Analogies

- Shrodinger's Cat
 - Dead and alive until perceived
- Physical nature illusion of electromagnetism
- Dual Slit experiment
 - Particle/wave duality
 - Observation determines
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfPeprQ7oGc>

Attempts to reclaim physical world

- Functional definition of matter
 - “I find myself affected with various ideas of which I know I am not the cause...They have some cause distinct from me and them...and this thing, whatever it is, I call matter”

God and Sufficient Reason

- The only real response Berkeley has to this is to call upon the Principle of Sufficient Reason
- 1. God does not do anything without sufficient reason
- 2. God either created physical objects or didn't
- 3. We do not need physical objects to have experiences, God can cause directly
- 4. No reason to create physical objects
- 5. God did not create physical objects

Abstract Ideas

- Only inference left to material world is that abstract ideas must correspond to real world