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Mind the Gap: Avicenna's New Argument against Actually Infinite Space and Its Reception

Mittwoch, den 07.06.2017, 18 Uhr c.t.
Raum 28
im Südflügel der Residenz

The paper considers the history of a set of ancient and medieval arguments intended to show the spatial finitude of the cosmos. I argue that questionable physical and mathematical presuppositions inherent within earlier arguments motivated Avicenna (980–1037) to develop a new proof for the spatial finitude of the world. Avicenna's proof is deceptively simple and dominated discussion of the possibility of a spatial infinity in post-classical Islamic philosophy, which are also briefly canvased in this study. In the end, I hope to convey some taste for the philosophical sophistication and depth of the medieval Arabic discussion associated with infinity.

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