

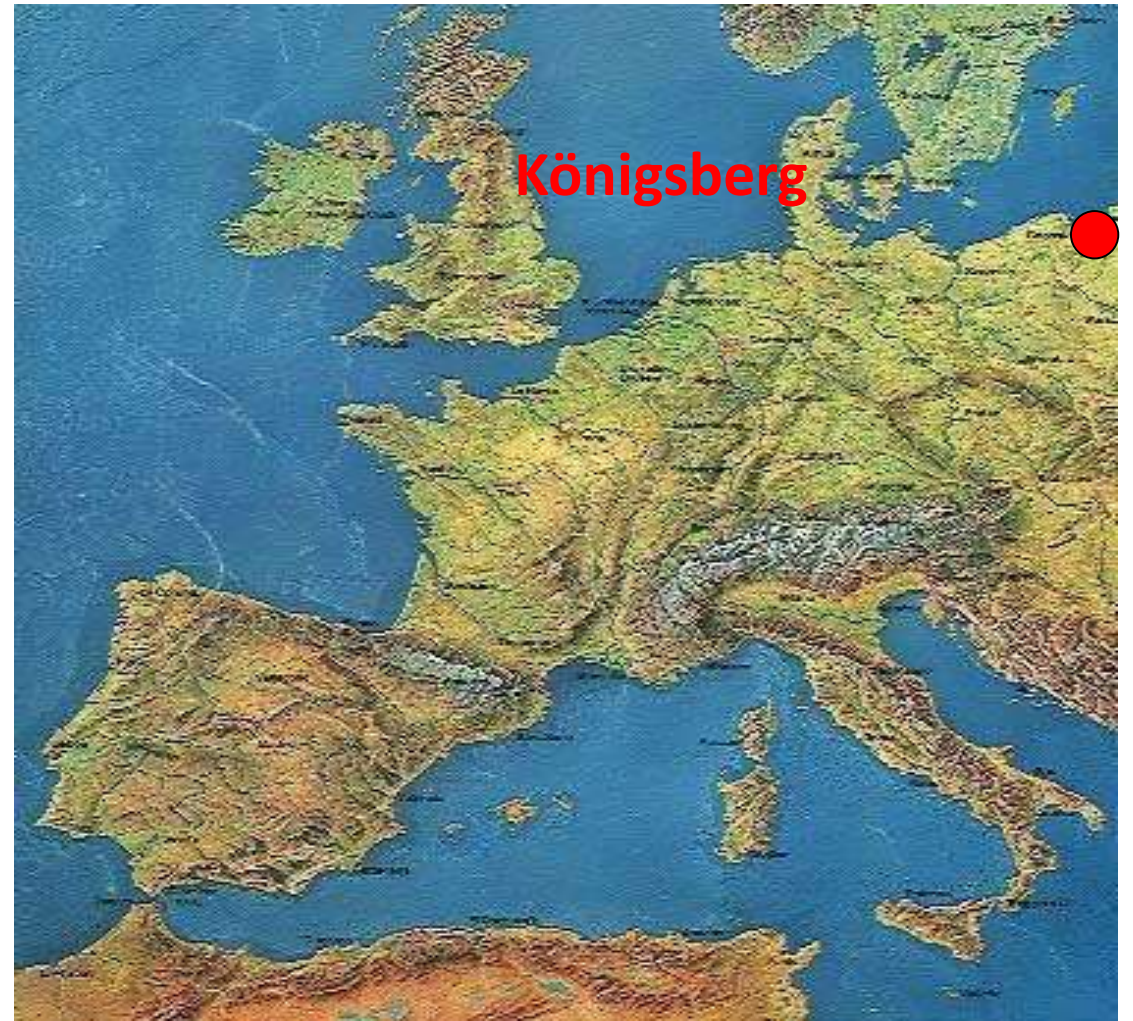
Immanuel Kant



(1724 – 1804)

Kant's Birth Place

- **Born on April 22, 1724**
in Königsberg
- **Died on February 12, 1804**
in Königsberg
- He was born in a tiny village in Germany called Königsberg, and never travelled more than 10 miles outside of it during his entire life.
- He had a very strict routine – the story goes that local people in Königsberg used to set their watches by the time Kant went by on this daily walk!



Kant's Major Writings

- Universal Natural History and Theory of Heaven (1755)
- The Critique of Pure Reason (1781/1787)
- Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics That Will Be Able to Present Itself as a Science (1783)
- Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals (1785)
- The Critique of Practical Reason (1788)



Kant's Critique

Kant's Problem

- Hume, Berkley, Locke and other empiricists (**Empiricism**): Knowledge is derived from sense-data.
- Descartes, Spinoza, Leibnitz and other rationalist (**Rationalism**): Knowledge is derived from reason (innate ideas)
- For Kant: Empiricism and rationalism both had failed to explain knowledge
 - Both of them were based on a common assumptions concerning the status of objects
 - Things as objects of knowledge exist external to the mind
 - Ptolemy-Copernicus...
 - Kant did not reject **empiricism** and **rationalism**. Kant's statement was that both of them(E&R) are right in what they **affirm**, but wrong in what they **deny**...

Kant's Problem

The Problem of Synthetic *A priori* Propositions

Analytic and Synthetic Propositions

- **Analytic:**

- True in virtue of meaning alone. *It's validity depends solely on the definitions of the symbols it contains.*
- *Grounded in meaning independently of matters of fact*
- Kant: a proposition whose predicate concept is contained in its subject concept

- ***A priori*:**

- knowable “prior to” experience
- independent of sense experience
- Kant: “although all our knowledge begins with experience, it does not follow that it arises from experience”

- **Necessary:**

- Logically impossible that it is false. Denial of it involves a contradiction
- True in all possible world

- **Synthetic:**

- Not analytic. *It's validity is determined by the facts of experience.*
- Kant: a proposition whose predicate concept is **not** contained in its subject concept

- ***A posteriori* :**

- (“empirical”): can only be known “after” (on the basis of) experience

- **Contingent:**

- Not necessary
- Not true in all possible world
- Possible: at least in one possible world it is true

Analytic Propositions

Aanalytic: Analytic proposition is a proposition in which what is predicated (the intension of the predicate) is already implied by the subject of the predication (the intension of the subject).

- True in virtue of meaning alone. *It's validity depends solely on the definitions of the symbols/words it contains.*
- *Grounded in meaning independently of matters of fact.*

- Example:

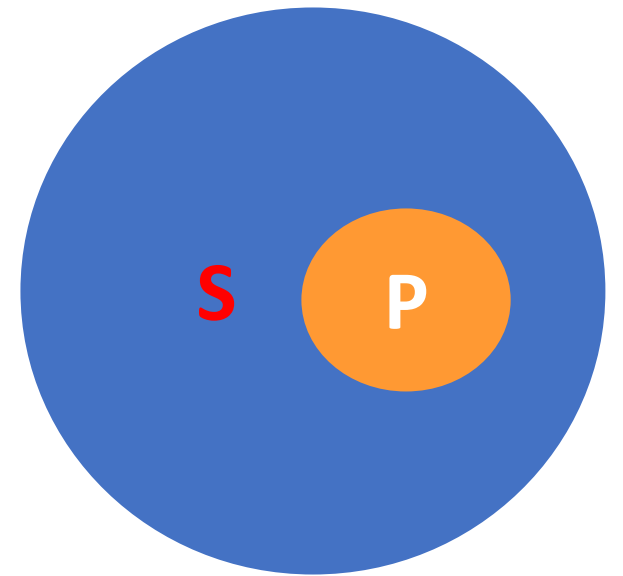
I know analytically that:

- No unmarried man is married
- No bachelor is married
- All brothers are male

- Because

- The word unmarried is defined as not-married
- The word bachelor is defined as not-married
- The word brothers is defined as male siblings

- **The relation between the intension of the subject and the predicate in analytic propositions**



Synthetic Propositions

The relation between the intension of the subject and the predicate in synthetic propositions

Example:

Some men are unmarried.



Analytic Propositions

A priori:

- knowable 'prior' to experience or independent of sense experience
- Kant: "although all our knowledge begins with experience, it does not follow that it arises from experience"

• Example:

I know a priori that

- " $7+5=12$ "
- "Entities x and y are identical if every predicate possessed by x is also possessed by y and *vice versa*"

• Because

- Knowing that " $7+5=12$ " is true does not require to count on my fingers or I do not have to meet these guys " 7 " and " 5 " in order to know their nature.

Analytic Propositions

Necessary:

- Logically impossible that it is false / Denial of it involves a contradiction
- True in all possible world
- Possible Worlds: Every logically conceivable non-contradictory state of affair



- Example:

I know it is necessary that:

- A triangle has three sides
- Nothing can be red and green all over

- Because:

- It is true for every possible world that if a triangle is exemplified in it, then it has three sides.
- There is no possible world/ logically conceivable non-contradictory state of affair in which an object has an all over green and red surface simultaneously.

Critical Problems???

- Since, they are interchangeable I know analytically/a priori/necessarily that:
- No bachelor is married
 - “ $7+5=12$ ”
 - A triangle has three sides
1. But what about these?
 - Water is H₂O
 - Every event has a cause / everything that has a beginning has an end
 - God exists
 2. Does *a priori* knowledge pose a problem for empiricism?
 - Or a priori knowledge is a genuinely different *kind* of knowledge?
 3. How do we justify a priori statements?

The Problem of Synthetic *A priori* Propositions

A priori
(non-empirical)
propositions

A posteriori
(empirical)
propositions

Classified by
quantity

Universal
(general)

Particular
or singular

Classified by
modality

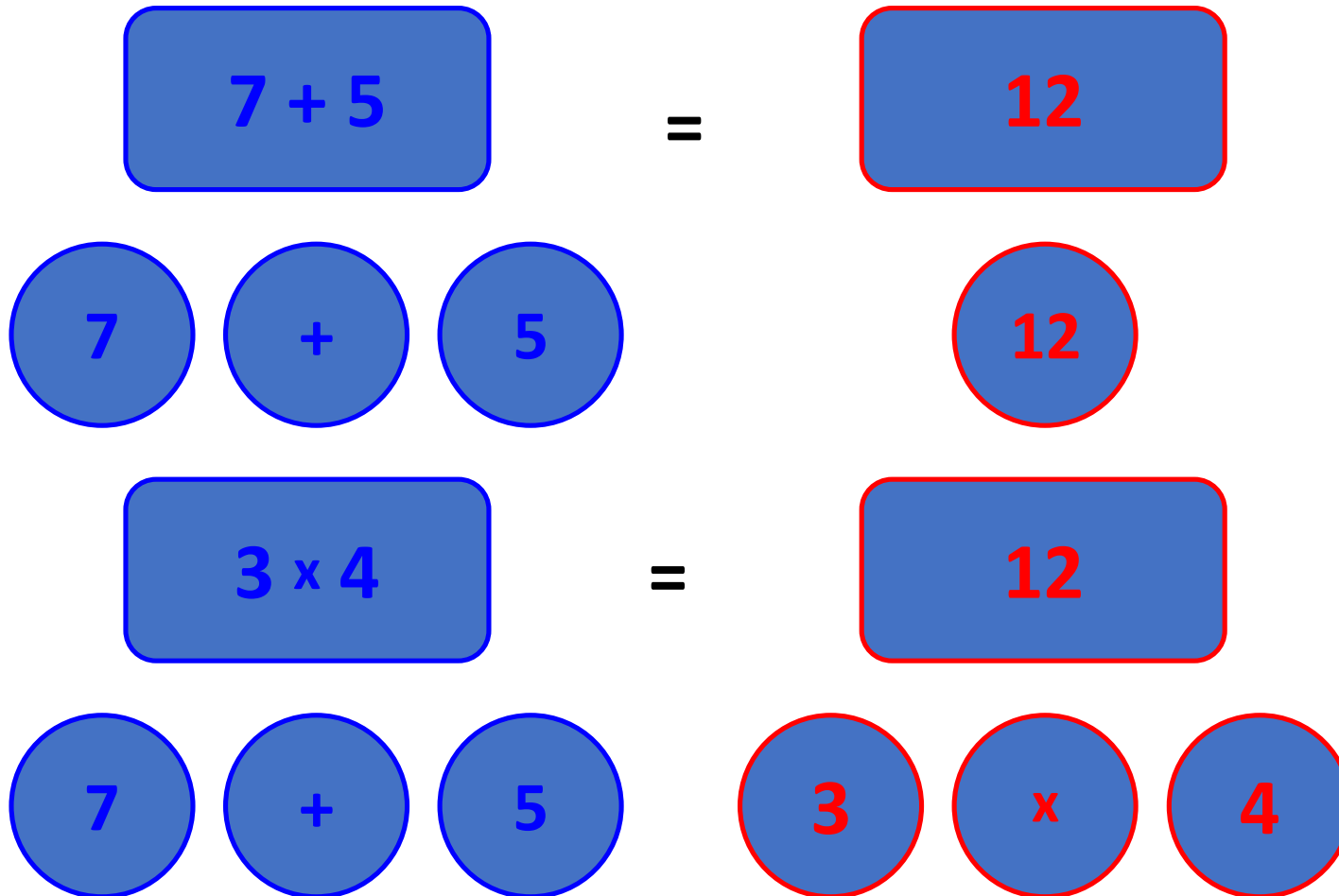
Apodeictic
(necessary)

Two plus two equals four

Assertoric
(actual)

Chicago is larger than Omaha

Synthetic *A priori* Propositions in Mathematics



Synthetic *a priori* Propositions in Geometry

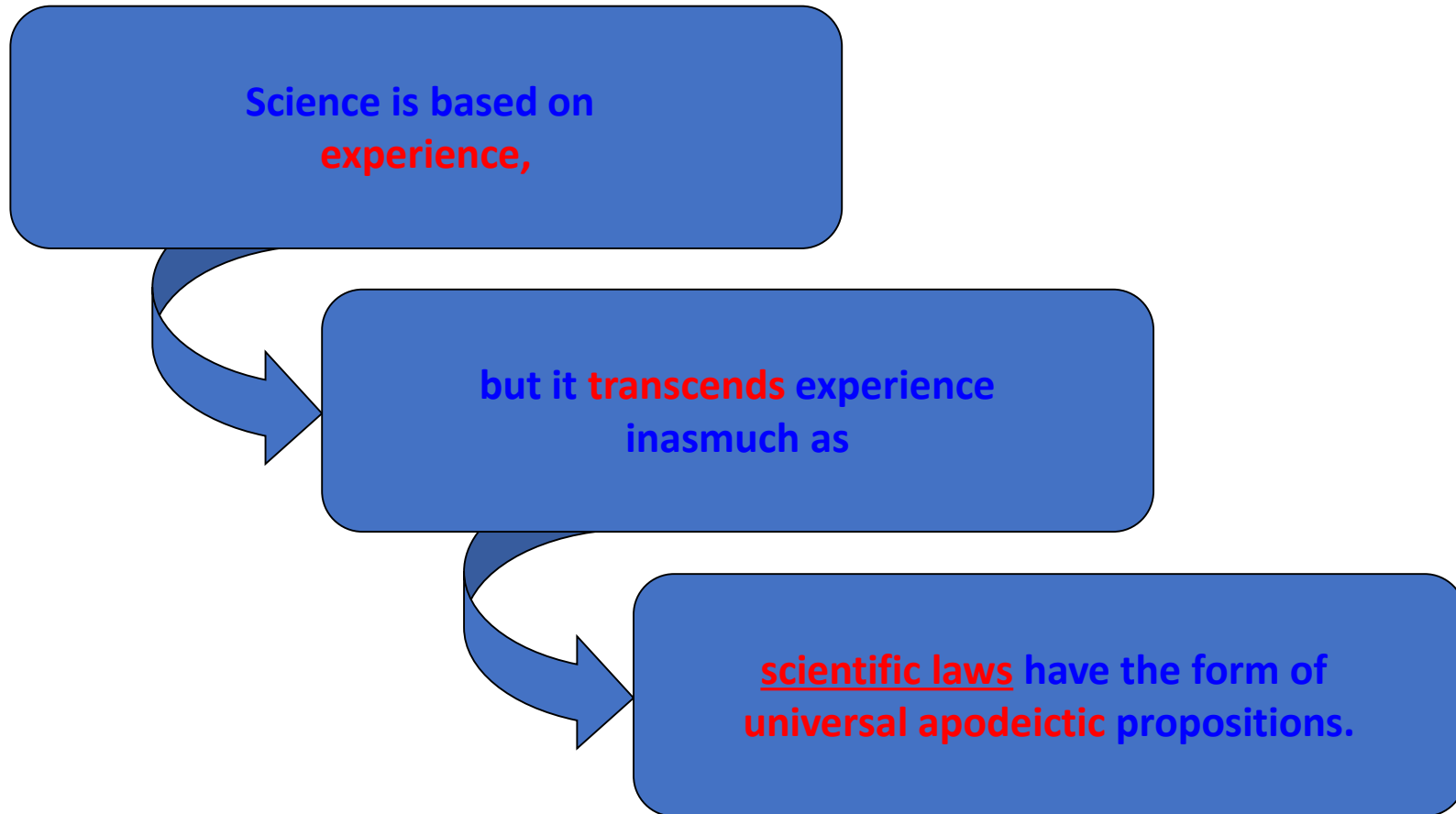
- For example, A straight line is the shortest distance between two points
- Since arithmetic and geometry include synthetic *a priori* propositions, such propositions are possible.

Synthetic *A priori* Propositions in Physics

- According to Kant, pure physics contains synthetic judgements *a priori*
- *For example: 'Everything that happens or every event has its cause'*

Synthetic *A priori* Propositions in Metaphysics

The Problem of Synthetic *A priori* Propositions



Empiricism-Rationalism-Transcendentalism

- Knowledge begins with experience, but does not necessarily originate from it
- Knowledge is a joint venture of **sense** and **understanding**: As soon as sense-experience registers its impressions on the mind, the mind at once is stirred into its own activity and contributes its own ordering activity into discrete impressions
- Thus, **Knowledge begins with sense, proceeds thence to understanding and ends in reason**
- **Knowledge proper is a joint product of sense and understanding. The material is supplied by the senses are ordered and synthesized into cognitive statements by the *a priori* form of the mind.**

Transcendentalism

- Transcendentalism points out the importance of a priori elements in knowledge.
- It points out that without sense-materials, they alone cannot constitute knowledge.
- It successfully reconciles the rival claims of empiricism and rationalism and maintains a golden mean between the exaggerated skepticism and excessive claims of knowledge
- Supersensible and metaphysical entities is known as Agnosticism
- Human beings have no faculty for knowing certain ultimate realities
- Kant maintains that there are things-in-themselves which are unknown and unknowable
- The doctrine of the unknowable is follows from Kant's Transcendental philosophy
- Kant says, only those objects are known which lend themselves to human forms of knowing. Naturally objects of knowledge would be transfigured and transformed by these *a priori* forms of human knowledge

- Knowledge of the *phenomena*
- Knowledge of the *noumena*