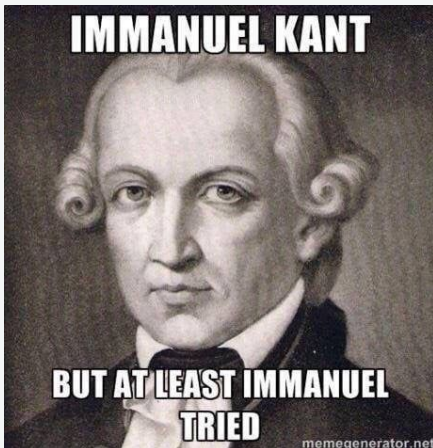


Immanuel Kant



Background Info

Kant was mostly interested in logic, metaphysics, physics, geography, and anthropology

He was affected by Hume's problem of causality; he thinks that the problem is even more expansive, and wants to make necessary knowledge about objects possible again and to make physics possible again

He was also influenced by the Copernican revolution* and wanted to unite freedom and morality with Newtonian physics

*During the copernican revolution it was discovered that the sun is not the one moving circularly around the earth, but it is the other way around

Copernican Revolution

the revolution made people realize that what is knowable is limited, there is no necessary universalia (e.g. a cat) in the external world, experiencing a world requires necessary universalia, and there can only be a knowable object in as far as it conforms our mind

-> the concept of *transcendent(al)* (= outside of the knowable) came to be.

Copernican Revolution (cont)

transcendental: the structures of the knowable; demarcates what we can and cannot know

transcendental idealism: the structures of the knowable lie in the subject

Practical reason

Two-objects interpretation: TI is a metaphysical thesis describing two different kinds of objects/worlds

Two-aspects interpretation: TI is either

- A metaphysical thesis describing two different aspects of the same object
 - An epistemological thesis describing that we are limited to our human viewpoint
- Kant claimed that classical metaphysical concepts (god, soul, a whole world) were regulative ideas.

He stated that actions are free, but we do have to determine ourselves by means of reason (*categorical imperative*)

Contradiction

is there a first time?

-> according to Kant this is something we cannot think about as by trying to think about this, we find ourselves in contradiction: antinomies* Thus: we shouldn't think those things

*antinomies: contradictions that necessarily follow from our attempts to cognize the nature of transcendent reality by means of pure reason.

Hume vs Kant

hume:

- no necessary connection or laws in the world outside of us
 - no necessary knowledge
 - there is a subjective habit
- domains of knowledge:*

- no theoretical knowledge about metaphysics and theology outside of experience
- necessity only in relations between ideas: analysis

kant:

- the world is knowable as far as our mind allows it
 - the structure of the mind determines the world in its appearance
 - there is necessary knowledge
- domains of knowledge:*
- states that Hume destroys traditional conceptions of necessity
 - discussions defending causality are missing the point

Pure Reason

According to Kant, pure reason is something that is not yet tainted by empirical subjectivity

critique then is finding the line of what we can and cannot make truthful claims about

His primary aim is to determine the limits and scope of pure reason. That is, he wants to know what reason alone can determine without the help of the senses or any other faculties



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Phenomena and Noumena

Phenomena: what we can know
 -> are deterministic (should not have happened any other way)
 -> phenomena include a priori knowledge relying on concepts and a posteriori knowledge relying on structures experience
 Noumena: what we cannot know
 -> also known as *ding an sich*; the world as it is outside of our experience
 -> e.g. classical metaphysical concepts such as God, soul, world as a whole
as far as we are a noumena being we are free, as phenomena beings we are not

On Logic

Kant tried to resolve scepticism by giving a different concept of the mind.
 transcendental logic contains transcendental analytic and dialect
 -> analytic: discusses what the categories of our thoughts are; it breaks apart to show what the different categories are
 ->dialect: discusses what happens when you go beyond the limits of the categories
 The latter is impossible according to Kant, as nothing can go beyond the limits* and thus leads to contradictions

* by acknowledging the limits of our capacity for knowledge we create room for freedom ad faith

Types of Knowledge

Kant distinguished different types of knowledge:
 1. analytic: no new knowledge , it could not be different (*e.g. i know the ball is round*)
 2. synthetic → new, and necessary knowledge (*e.g. i know 1+1=2*)
 - pure: without any concepts that have an empirical component
 - a priori: having knowledge beforehand; does not rely on a concrete experience (*i.e. the substance in things is permanent*)
 - a posteriori: knowledge afterwards; uses a concrete experience (*i.e. the apple is red*)
 → pure knowledge is always a priori, a priori knowledge isn't always pure

examples

- *analytic, a priori*: the ball is round, 5 is a number; = necessary
- *synthetic a posteriori*: the ball is red; = not necessary
- *synthetic a prior*: 2+3=5, everything which exists is caused; = necessary
- *analytic a posteriori*: = impossible (according to kant)

New Knowledge

According to Kant, knowledge comes from experience
 new and necessary knowledge must be synthetic, a priori and use pure reason.
 Critique is necessary when gaining new knowledge

Intuition and Understanding

we can achieve a necessary structure of knowledge because the object conforms to our subjective structure -> this structure consists of:
 intuitions: determine meaningful content
 -> they are the structure of experience, e.g. time and space

Intuition and Understanding (cont)

concepts of understanding: structure content
 -> understanding is always with an object; as basic logic is without an object, e.g. the categories
 judgement relies on logical form; which makes use of categories

Categories

judgements		categories
singular, particular, universal	1.	unity, plurality, totality
affirmative, negative, infinite	2.	reality, negation, limitation
categorical, hypothetical, disjunctive	3.	substantiality, causality, reciprocity
problematic, assertive, apototic	4.	possibility/impossibility, existence/non-existence, necessity/contingency

Categories are required for the synthesis of both a priori and a posteriori knowledge
 categories are based on Aristotelian logic

Kant's division on Logic

