

**Rationalism and Empiricism**  
**CSUF**  
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# Berkeley's Phenomenalism

- We have seen thus far that Berkeley thinks for something to exist is for it to be perceived by a mind
- "Esse is percipi"

- We might interpret Berkeley's Phenomenalism in one of two ways...

# Argument A

- 1) Bodies are collections of ideas.
- 2) If bodies are collections of ideas, then we can know the existence of bodies.
- C) Therefore, we can know the existence of bodies.

# Argument B

- We know the existence of bodies.
- If we know the existence of bodies, then bodies are collections of ideas.
- Therefore, bodies are collections of ideas.

- Argument B might appeal to Berkeley, since he seeks to defend common sense.
- Argument A, on the other hand, is a refutation of skepticism.

- P. 256

- 1 sensible things cannot exist otherwise but in a mind or spirit.
- 2 the existence of sensible things does not depend on me.
- C) therefore, sensible things must exist in some other mind.

- How does Berkeley's proof of God's existence go?

The Limerick...

There was a young man who said, "God,  
Must think it exceedingly odd  
If he finds that this tree  
Continues to be  
When there's no one about in the Quad."

"Dear Sir: Your astonishment's odd:  
I am always about in the Quad.  
And that's why the tree  
Continues to be,  
Since observed by, Yours faithfully, God."