

Recapping theories on the universe creation

expanding gravity early argued succumb
unchanging crammed Proponents hypothesis mass

Since the _____ part of the 1900s, one explanation of the origin and fate of the universe, the Big Bang theory, has dominated the discussion. _____ of the Big Bang maintain that, between 13 billion and 15 billion years ago, all the matter and energy in the known cosmos was _____ into a tiny, compact point.

But the Big Bang is not the only proposed theory concerning our universe's origin. In the 1940s a competing _____ arose, called the Steady State theory. British astrophysicist Fred Hoyle and others _____ that the universe was not only uniform in space—an idea called the cosmological principle—but also _____ in time.

Will the universe continue _____? Will it just stop or even begin to contract? The answer depends on the amount of mass that the universe contains. If the universe's _____ exceeds a certain crucial value, then gravity should eventually stop everything from flying away from everything else.

With enough mass, the universe will eventually _____ to the overpowering force of _____ and collapse again into a single point—a theory often called the Big Crunch.