

Abstract Submitted  
for the MAS15 Meeting of  
The American Physical Society

**Big Bang or Big Bounce?**<sup>1</sup> PAUL STEINHARDT, Princeton University  
— Did the universe begin with a bang fourteen billion years ago, as conventionally assumed? Or was there a bounce — a transition from a period of contraction to expansion? This talk will briefly recount the historical views of Einstein and his contemporaries a century ago and then focus on how these questions have become the key to interpreting recent and forthcoming observations and to our understanding of the origin and future of the universe.

<sup>1</sup>Big Bang or Big Bounce

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Date submitted: 22 Sep 2015

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