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What is and what might have been

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A central theme of Arthur Prior's 1956 Locke Lectures on "Time and Modality" is the trouble raised for logic by the contingency of existence. His tentative solution was to abandon bivalence with the curious and poorly-understood System Q. I present a simple alternative that has been overlooked by the mainstream development of modal predicate logic, and which provides an easy way of combining actualism (the view that all that exists actually exists) with contingentism (the view that there might have been things other than there are). Timothy Williamson's argument for the necessity of existence is then re-examined. For those familiar with my work, this relates directly to "common sense" modal predicate logic, but focusses more on the philosophical context.