

Cambridge Elements[≡]

Elements in Ancient Philosophy

edited by
James Warren
University of Cambridge

PROPERTIES IN ANCIENT METAPHYSICS

Anna Marmodoro
Durham University



Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-47573-0 — Properties in Ancient Metaphysics
Anna Marmodoro
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009475730

DOI: 10.1017/9781009105866

© Anna Marmodoro 2023

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2023

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-009-47573-0 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-10146-2 Paperback
ISSN 2631-4118 (online)
ISSN 2631-410X (print)

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

Properties in Ancient Metaphysics

Elements in Ancient Philosophy

DOI: 10.1017/9781009105866
First published online: November 2023

Anna Marmodoro
Durham University

Author for correspondence: Anna Marmodoro,
anna.marmodoro@durham.ac.uk

Abstract: This Element provides an overview of how the ancient thinkers (Anaxagoras, Plato and Aristotle) theorised about properties; such overview puts in relief the inquiries, problems and solutions they were pursuing while engaged in dialogue with each other. It examines alternative philosophical perspectives existing in antiquity concerning the explanation of property qualification, qualitative similarity, compositeness, and oneness. It further argues that although Plato was the first to conceptualise recurring universals, he did not reify them and did not admit them in his ontology; it was Aristotle who did, and developed his metaphysics around them. Aristotle, building on Plato's work, identified the metaphysical phenomenon of the instantiation of properties and developed an account for it. Finally, this Element outlines Aristotle's 'sophisticated' account of the oneness of a substance and argues that it was not hylomorphic.

Keywords: Anaxagoras, Plato, Aristotle, properties, resemblance

© Anna Marmodoro 2023

ISBNs: 9781009475730 (HB), 9781009101462 (PB), 9781009105866 (OC)
ISSNs: 2631-4118 (online), 2631-410X (print)

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Anaxagoras’s Opposites	8
3	Plato’s Forms	19
4	Aristotle’s Forms	40
5	Conclusion	63
	References	66