

Is tetsuo universal

The issue here is that Tetsuo's big bang is... weird. It's very clearly not combat relevant, seeing how Kaneda and the rest of his world remained intact. Tetsuo was also not in control *at all*, and **required Akira to guide him** in order to achieve enlightenment and create that new universe. So, sure, Tetsuo is probably more powerful, but he's never used that power in combat, nor do we even know if he *could*. He needed direct outside influence to reach the point where he could create a universe in the first place, and to top it all off, he only reached that level of power after uncontrollably mutating and transforming into a giant, grotesque fetus.

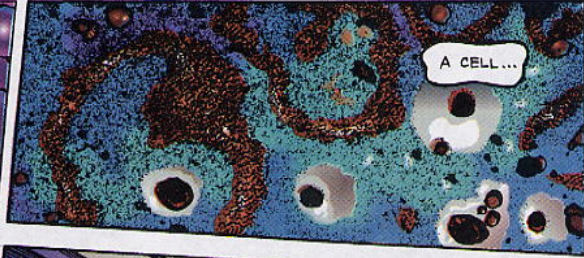
If you stick just to the source material, Tetsuo likely isn't even planet level on his own. The *combined* power of Akira and Tetsuo is stated to possibly reach this level, and Tetsuo is stated to be able to wipe out "all the energy mankind has amassed", but none of that points to Tetsuo on his own wielding planet-busting power. As addressed in the verdict, Tetsuo's final attack that ends up being absorbed by Akira doesn't even do much more than level Tokyo a third time. Impressive, but hardly on the scale of planet busting.



Taking this quote here, it's more likely that Tetsuo and Akira are simply unstoppable. At this point, Tetsuo was reaching a point where he could start to compare to Akira in strength. As evidenced by the fact that Akira had previously totalled Tokyo twice, and Tetsuo's final feat manages that as well. Obviously, no one could compete with them at this point, so it would make sense that the 'world' couldn't contain two nigh-unkillable, absent-minded city busters.



WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO...?

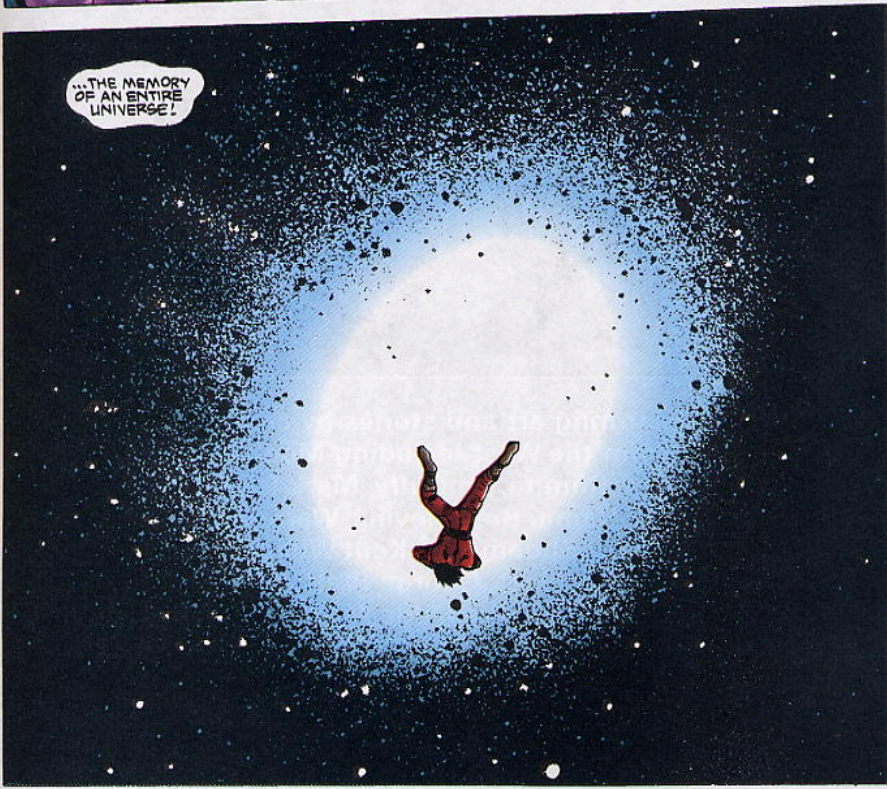


A CELL...

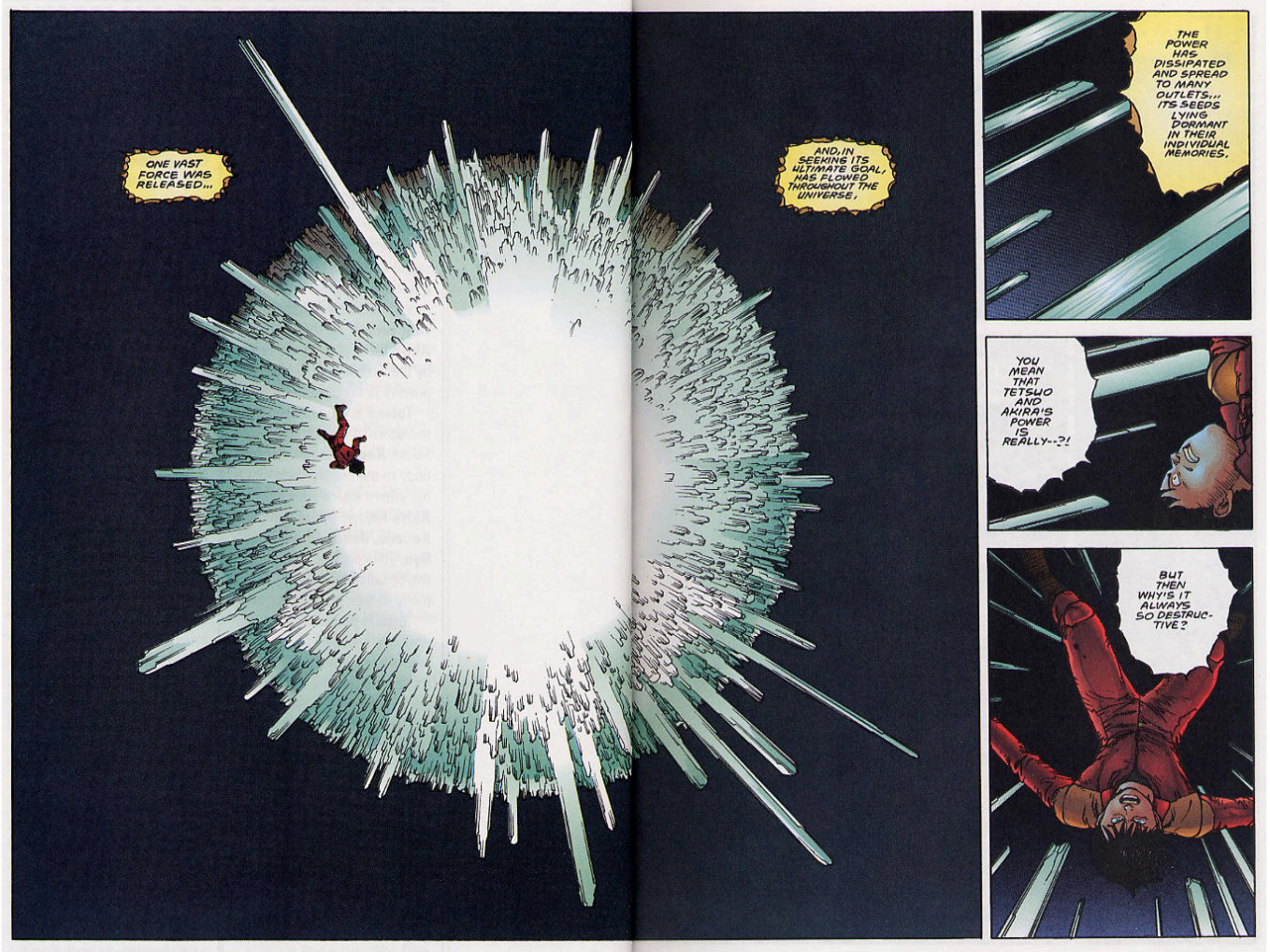


... AND ...

... FORMED BY THE ORGANISM'S MEMORY OR MOLECULAR FORM ...

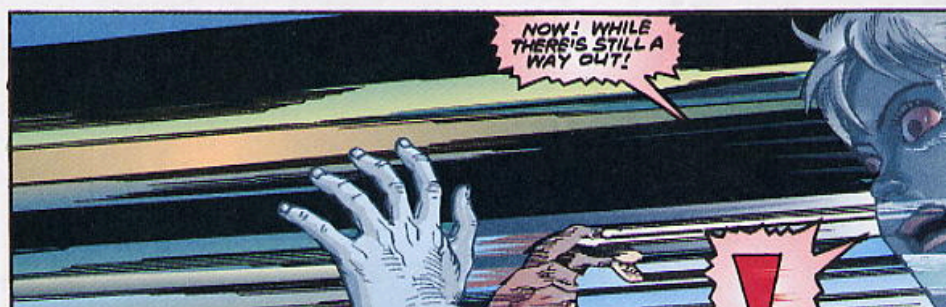
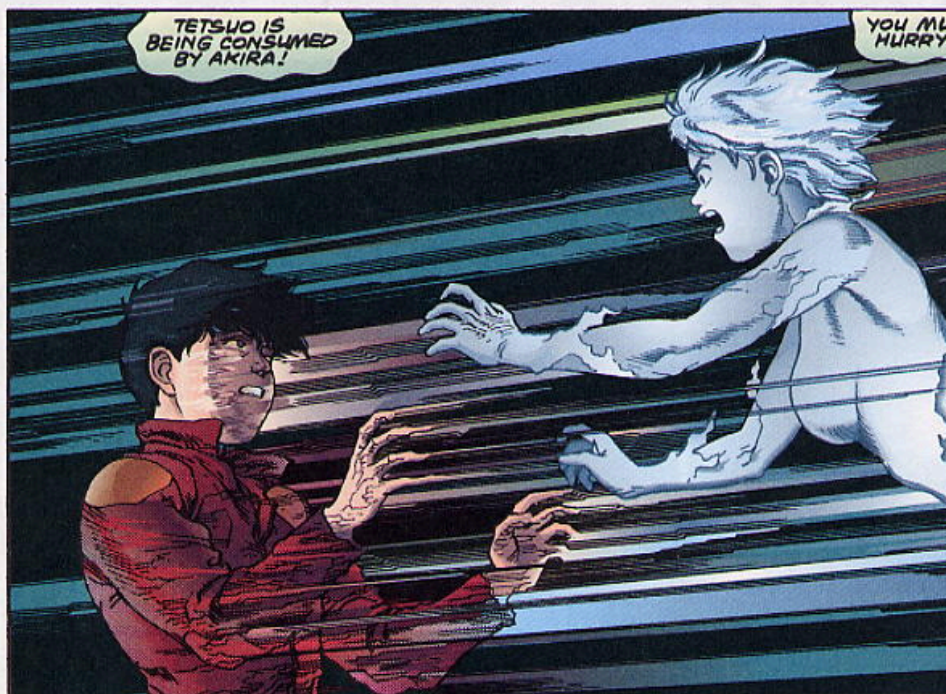
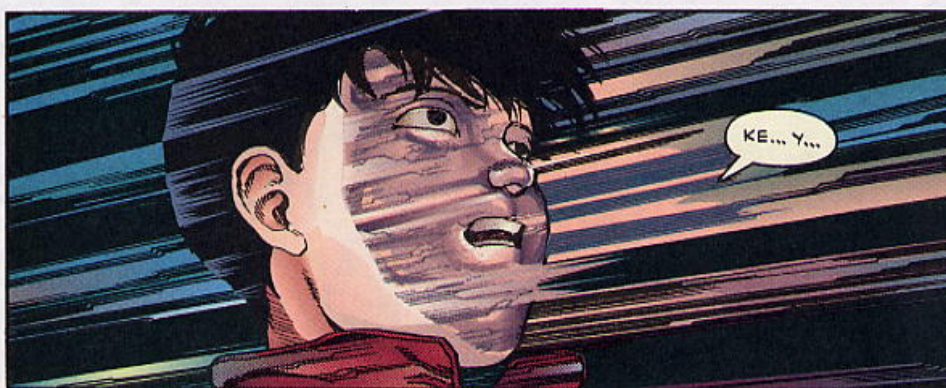


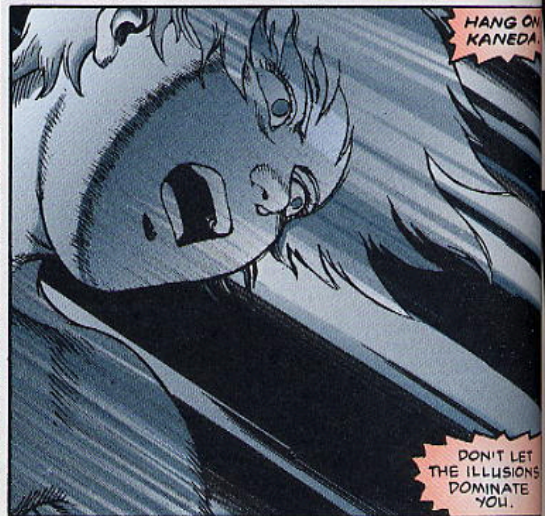
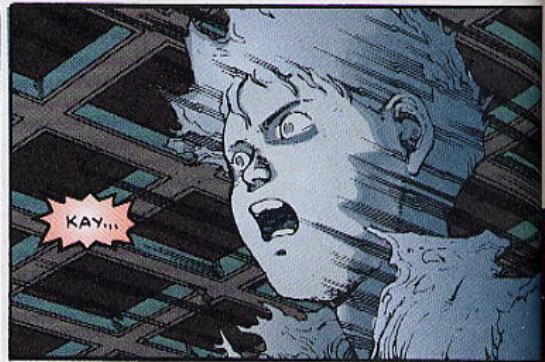
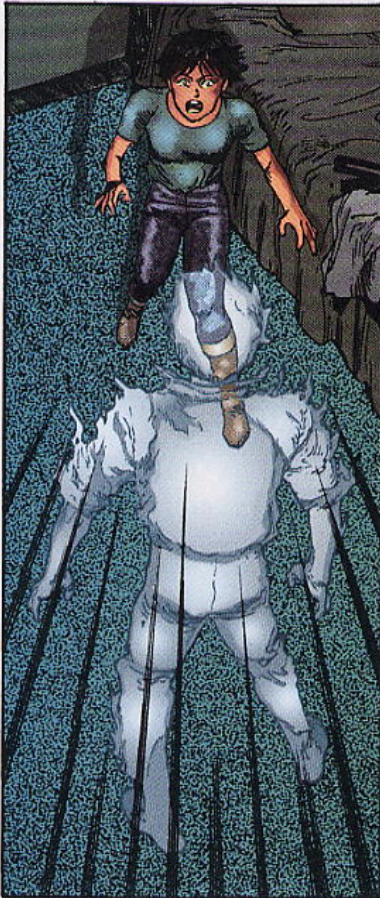
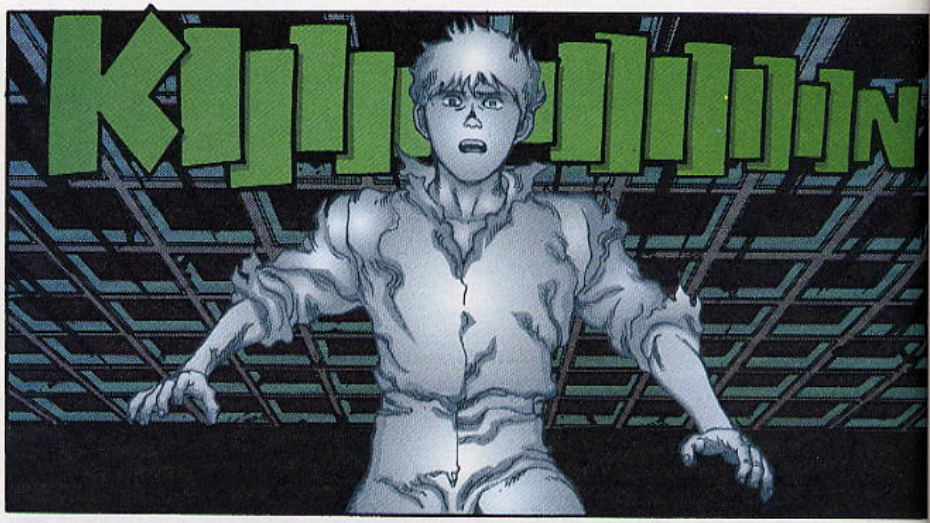
... THE MEMORY OF AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE!



Addressing the manga's "big bang" feat which some claim to place Tetsuo at big-bang levels, this is also pretty easily disproven. At a glance, it does appear that this is a legitimate big bang being created in some shape or form.

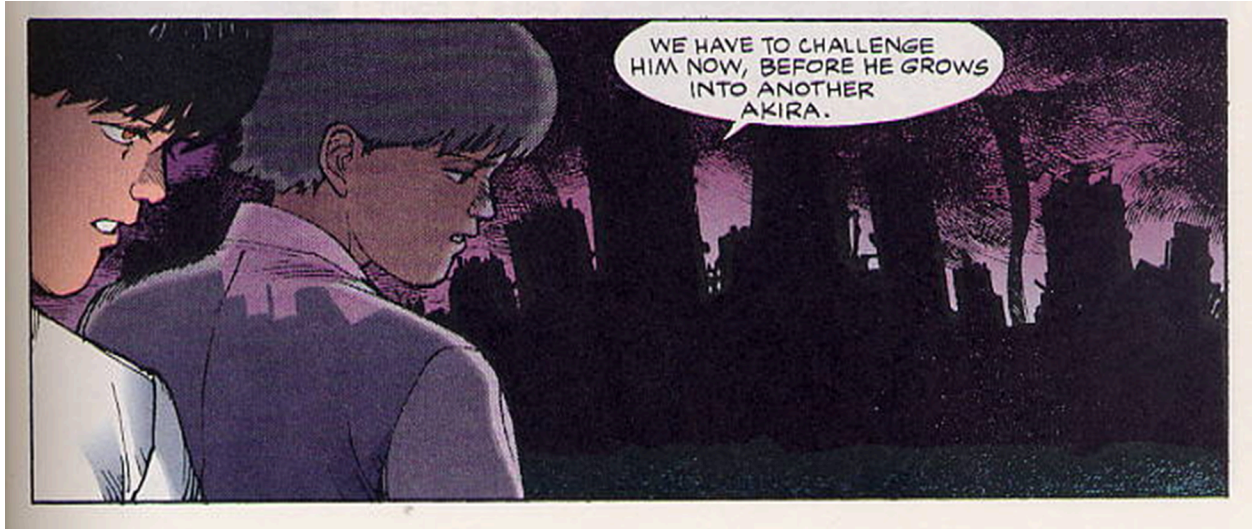
Here's the issue.





As it turns out, the events playing out in this sequence are the *memories* of Tetsuo, and we know that Tetsuo is being consumed by Akira, as Kei puts it. There's two ways to look at this, neither of which imply Tetsuo could create a big bang.

1. Akira is recreating everything we see here. This would mean that Akira is powerful enough to do this, but also clearly vastly superior to Tetsuo, since he's consuming Tetsuo at the same time.
2. More likely, these are all projections and not *literal*. Kei later calls all of these sequences "illusions", which makes sense when considering the wording used to describe "the memory of an entire universe". These are espers, psychics, who deal with mental projection and readings. It's far more likely that these are indeed just illusions and mental images, not literal feats on a universal scale.



In case there was any doubt about Akira being superior to Tetsuo for the vast majority of the manga, if not all of it.