

Grounding (Space-) Time

By Christian Wuthrich

Time might seem to be the sort of thing that is, by necessity, fundamental, primitive, and not grounded in anything non-temporal. However, leading research programs in quantum gravity suggest that (space-) time is not fundamental, but instead emerges from something non-spatiotemporal. How should we conceive of such a possibility metaphysically? I will try to illustrate just how this might work using the example of causal set theory, which asserts that time is grounded in causation, rather than the other way around.