

Spacetime Functionalism

By Eleanor Knox

Many (perhaps all) concepts in science are functional, but the idea that we should conceive of *spacetime* as whatever fills some functional role has not been much explored. Nonetheless, a functional conception of spacetime seems to be required by some theories of quantum gravity in which spacetime is non-fundamental. I'll also argue that functionalism is helpful in the context of classical spacetime theories; it has the potential to dissolve some old problems. I'll advocate a particular kind of spacetime functionalism inspired by the work of Harvey Brown, and look at some consequences of this kind of spacetime functionalism for old metaphysical debates.