

David Lewis Meets Hamilton and Jacobi

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Abstract

I commemorate David Lewis by discussing an aspect of modality within analytical mechanics, which is closely related to his work on counterfactuals. This concerns the way Hamilton-Jacobi theory uses ensembles, i.e. sets of possible initial conditions. (A companion paper discusses other aspects of modality in analytical mechanics that are equally related to Lewis' work.)

Keywords: modality, analytical mechanics, Hamilton-Jacobi theory, counterfactuals

Subjects: [Specific Sciences: Physics: Classical Physics](#)

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Additional Information: Dedicated to the memory of David Lewis