Measures, Explanations and the Past: Should 'Special' Initial Conditions be Explained?

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Abstract

For the generalizations of thermodynamics to obtain, it appears that a very “ special ” initial condition of the universe is required. Is this initial condition itself in need of explanation? I argue that it is not. In so doing, I offer a framework in which to think about “ special ” initial conditions in all areas of science, though I concentrate on the case of thermodynamics. I urge the view that it is not always a serious mark against a theory that it must posit an “ improbable ” initial condition.

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