

Tense and Indeterminateness

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Abstract

Is tense real and objective? Can the fact that something is past, say, be wholly objective, consistent with special relativity? The answer is yes, but only so long as the distinction has no ontological ground.

There is a closely related question. Is the contrast between the determinate and the indeterminate real and objective, consistent with relativity and quantum mechanics? The answer is again yes, but only if the contrast has no ontological ground. Various accounts of it are explored, according to different approaches to quantum mechanics. The Everett interpretation is much the most successful in accounting for it.

Keywords: presentism, possibilism, Everett, quantum mechanics, special relativity, stochasticity

[Specific Sciences: Physics: Relativity Theory](#)

[General Issues: Determinism/Indeterminism](#)

Subjects: [Specific Sciences: Physics: Statistical Mechanics/Thermodynamics](#)

[Specific Sciences: Physics: Quantum Mechanics](#)

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