

Symmetry & Possibility: To Reduce or not Reduce?

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Abstract

In this paper I examine the connection between symmetry and modality from the perspective of 'reduction' methods in geometric mechanics. I begin by setting the problem up as a choice between two opposing views: reduction and non-reduction. I then discern four views on the matter in the literature; they are distinguished by their advocacy of distinct geometric spaces as representing 'reality'. I come down in favour of non-reductive methods.

Keywords: Symmetry, reduction, modality, spacetime

Subjects: [Specific Sciences: Physics: Classical Physics](#)
[General Issues: Reductionism/Holism](#)
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