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Fluid Convection, Constraint and Causation

Bishop, Robert (2011) *Fluid Convection, Constraint and Causation*. [Preprint]



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Abstract

Complexity— nonlinear dynamics for my purposes in this essay— is rich with metaphysical and epistemological implications but is only recently receiving sustained philosophical analysis. I will explore some of the subtleties of causation and constraint in Rayleigh-Bénard convection as an example of a complex phenomenon, and extract some lessons for further philosophical reflection on top-down constraint and causation particularly with respect to causal foundationalism.

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