Constructing the World Lecture 6: Whither the Aufbau?

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Background

S is (a priori) **scrutable** from C iff it is knowable a priori that if the sentences in C obtain, then S obtains.

So far, I have argued that all truths are scrutable from PQTI (microphysical truths, phenomenal truths, that's-all sentence, indexical truths); and from a stripped-down base involving indexicals, logic/math, fundamentality, plus some/all of spatiotemporal, nomic, phenomenal, and quiddistic expressions.

Definitional Scrutability: All truths logically entailed by base truths and definitions. **Analytic Scrutability**: All truths analytically entailed by base truths. **Primitive Scrutability**: All truths a priori (analytically?) scrutable from truths involving primitive concepts.

An expression is **Twin-earthable** if it is possible for someone to use it nondeferentially with one extension and for a twin to use a corresponding term with a different extension. An expression is **narrow** if it is non-Twin-earthable or a primitive indexical. [N.B. extensions of predicates and general terms are properties.]

Narrow Scrutability: All truths are a priori scrutable from narrow truths (those using only narrow expressions).

Narrowness of Scrutability: If sentence A is scrutable from set B for a speaker S, and A and B have counterparts A' and B' for a twin speaker S', then A' is scrutable from B.

Narrowness of Apriority: If a thought T constitutes a priori knowledge, and T has a counterpart T' in a twin, then T' constitutes a priori knowledge.

An **epistemically rigid** expression is one that has the same extension in every epistemically possible scenario (and every possible world). Alternative: one whose extension can be known a priori.

An **acquaintance** expression is epistemically rigid or a primitive indexical.

Acquaintance Scrutability: All truths are scrutable from truths involving only acquaintance expressions.

Fundamental Scrutability: All truths are scrutable from metaphysically fundamental truths plus indexical truths.

Fundamental truths: must be epistemically rigid and necessitate all (epistemically rigid) truths.

Argument for Fundamental Scrutability:

1. All epistemically rigid truths are necessitated by (epistemically rigid) fundamental truths.

2. When S is epistemically rigid, S is necessary iff S is a priori.

3. All epistemically rigid truths are a priori scrutable from fundamental truths.

4. All truths are a priori scrutable from epistemically rigid truths and indexical truths.

5. All truths are a priori scrutable from fundamental truths and indexical truths.

Structural Scrutability: All truths are scrutable from structural truths.

Strongly structural truths: logical expressions alone. Weakly structural truths: logical expressions and (objective?) relation expressions.

Spatiotemporal Structuralism: All truths scrutable from spatiotemporal truths (plus indexical truths, and allowing logical/mathematical expressions).

Nomic Structuralism: All truths scrutable from nomic truths (plus...).

Phenomenal Structuralism: All truths scrutable from (structural) phenomenal truths (plus...).

Fundamentality Structuralism: All truths scrutable from truths about fundamentality (plus...)

The Carnap/Lewis *Aufbau*: The base contains logical, mathematical, and indexical expressions, plus 'fundamental'.

My *Aufbau*: The base contains logical, mathematical, and indexical expressions, plus phenomenal expressions, 'law', and 'fundamental'.