

Constructing the World

Lecture 1: A Scrutable World

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List of theses

Laplacean Scrutability: For all true propositions p , a Laplacean intellect who knew all the Laplacean truths would be in a position to know p .

Empirical Scrutability: There is a compact class of truths such that for all true propositions p , a Laplacean intellect who knew all the truths in that class would be in a position to know p . [compact = small and nontrivializing.]

Conditional Scrutability: There is a compact class of truths such that for all true propositions p , a Laplacean intellect would be in a position to know that if the truths in that class obtain, then p .

A Priori Scrutability: There is a compact class of truths such that for all true propositions p , a Laplacean intellect would be in a position to know a priori that if the truths in that class obtain, then p .

Definability: There is a compact class of primitive expressions such that all expressions are definable in terms of expressions in that class.

Definitional Scrutability: There is a compact class of truths [true sentences] such that all truths are logically entailed by truths in that class and adequate definition sentences.

A Priori Scrutability (sentential): There is a compact class of truths such that all truths are logically entailed by truths in that class and a priori truths.

Carnapian Scrutability: All truths are definitionally scrutable from truths in logical vocabulary [plus phenomenal similarity].

Fundamental Scrutability: All truths are a priori scrutable from metaphysically fundamental truths.

Primitive Scrutability: All truths are a priori scrutable from conceptually primitive truths.

Generalized Scrutability: There is a compact class C of sentences such that all epistemically possible sentences are scrutable from some epistemically possible subclass of C . [epistemically possible = not ruled out a priori]

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Discussion meeting: Thursdays 10:45-12:45, Ryle Room.