Lectures 1 and 2:  
Absolutism vs Relationism, I: The Leibniz–Clarke Correspondence

References and Further Reading

(Note that journal papers are now frequently available as downloads.)


<http://www.trin.cam.ac.uk/butterfield/Courses/PartBLeibnizClarke00.pdf>


Lectures 1 to 4: Absolute versus Relational Conceptions of Space

Lectures 3 and 4: Absolute versus Relational Concepts of Space

References and Further Reading

Basic Readings


Huggett, Nick, 1999: *Space from Zeno to Einstein* (Cambridge, MA: MIT). See: commentary to ch. 7 (especially sections 4 and 5); commentary to ch. 9; and commentary to ch. 11.


Further Reading


Earman, J., 1989: *World Enough and Space-time* (MIT Press, 1989), pp. 61–73 and 81–4. (Technical and mathematical in places, but worth looking at even if you can’t get to grips with all of it.)


With regard to handedness, note that a further attack can be mounted against Kant’s argument by arguing that handedness is not, after all, an ‘internal’ spatial property—on the grounds that where the geometry of space has a particular character a right hand (what is at one time a right hand) can be made to coincide with a left hand merely by being moved along a particular path through space. (See: Huggett 1999, Ch. 11; Dainton, Ch. 14.4–5; Earman 1989, Ch. 7.)

Instrumentalism vs Scientific Realism

(Note that if a defender of Mach plays the instrumentalist card this has interesting consequences: think about how the Newtonian could use this to resist complaints about her view. Note also that a defender of Mach could avoid appeal to instrumentalism and argue that the fundamental nature of causation makes ‘action at a distance’ unobjectionable. See discussion of causation later in the module.)
