IN DEFENCE OF A DYNAMIC VIEW OF REALITY†

ABSTRACT

The paper defends a dynamic view of reality which is founded on the assumption of the existence of the flow of time. The flow of time, which is supposed to be responsible for the dynamics of the world, is denied by the majority of physicists and philosophers since they see reality as a four-dimensional static block universe. In this talk, I will briefly analyse the main difficulties connected with our understanding of the problem of the flow of time and attempt to show that the reasons for the difficulty with the acceptance of its reality may lie in our inadequate metaphysics.

The vindication of the dynamic view of reality makes use of a metaphysical theory of the flow of time which is based on the notion of dynamic existence as proposed in my earlier papers.1 It is shown that such a conception allows one to explain the fundamental phenomena connected with the flow of time, namely the continuous changing of the present, the endurance of things, and the asymmetry of time. It is also argued that the proposed approach may be of some virtue for the empirical sciences because it explains the ubiquitous interest of scientists in the evolution of dynamic systems of different kinds, and provides us with an arrow of time which is lacking in theories describing fundamental physical interactions (modulo the weak interactions). The argument is advanced which aims to show that physics is unable to provide us with a theory of the flow of time and that we should look for such a

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theory in metaphysics. Thus, an approach to the relation between metaphysics and physics is vindicated that may help to overcome the difficulties blocking our understanding of reality as a dynamic one.

KEYWORDS
flow of time; change; dynamic existence; evolution; dynamic reality

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