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On Space. Towards a unified approach

The developments in science and philosophy in modern times brought immense changes in our understanding of space. The traditional, *Lebenswelt*-oriented concept of space was extended and at the same time seriously questioned by the concept of space of classical physics, which in turn was only the beginning of a long process of departing from the intuitive, “manifest” understanding in favor of a “scientific image” of space. These processes were paralleled by no less profound developments in philosophy and mathematics. Kant’s conception of space was for example an analogous departure from its everyday understanding, this time in the direction of exploring its role in our representing the world, which was erroneously interpreted, partly by Kant himself, as reducing space to a merely subjective mode of intuition.

Today we have at least the following kinds of space in our conceptual repertoire: (1) the space of everyday experience and *Lebenswelt*, (2) space as it is understood in physics and cosmology, (3) space as form of representing reality, (4) logical space in a sense exemplified by Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus*, (5) different kinds of spaces explored in mathematics, as well as what might be called mathematical space in general, space in which are mathematical objects and structures, (6) modal space of possibilities, sometimes called possible worlds. This is the kind of space indispensable for interpreting events and processes in the actual world as bearing information.

What I shall propose is intended as a little step towards unifying these diverse concepts of space. Precisely speaking I am going to show how such a unified approach could help resolving some notorious philosophical perplexities, rather than giving a precise description of how such a unified perspective could be actually achieved, which is certainly the more difficult part of the task.