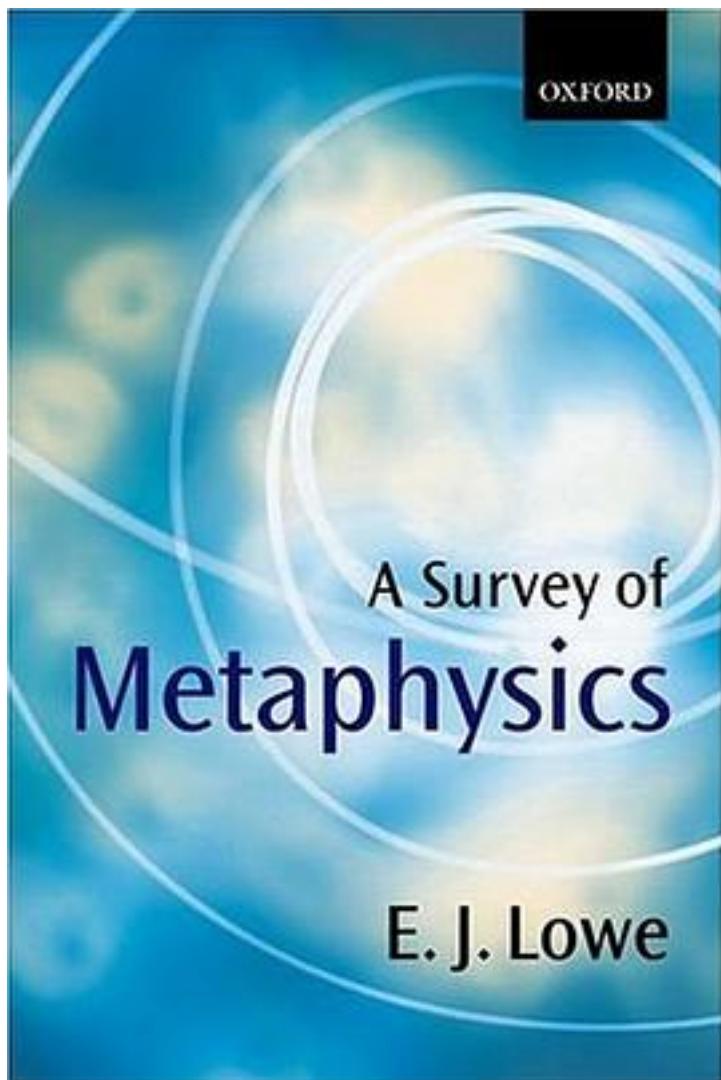


# A Survey of Metaphysics



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出版者:Oxford University Press, USA

出版时间:2002-03-07

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780198752530

A Survey of Metaphysics provides a systematic overview of modern metaphysics, covering all of the most important topics likely to be encountered on a metaphysics course. The conception of metaphysics underlying the book is the fairly traditional and widely-shared one that metaphysics deals with the deepest questions that can be raised concerning the fundamental structure of reality as a whole. The book is divided into six main parts, each relatively self-contained, focusing in turn on the following major themes: identity and change, necessity and essence, causation, agency and events, space and time, and universals and particulars. In an introductory chapter, the conception of metaphysics underlying the book is explained and defended against the many and varied opponents of metaphysics those students are likely to encounter. While the book makes reference when necessary to the history of metaphysics, its emphasis is on contemporary views and issues. The author's approach is not narrowly partisan, but avoids bland neutrality in matters of controversy.

作者介绍:

目录: 1: Introduction: The nature of metaphysics

Part I Identity and Change

2: Identity over time and change of composition

3: Qualitative change and the doctrine of temporal parts

4: Substantial change and spatiotemporal coincidence

Part II Necessity, Essence, and Possible Worlds

5: Necessity and identity

6: Essentialism

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Part III Causation and Conditionals

8: Counterfactual conditionals

9: Causes and conditions

10: Counterfactuals and event causation

Part IV Actions and Events

11: Event causation and agent causation

12: Actions and Events

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Part V Space and Time

14: Absolutism versus relationalism

15: Incongruent counterparts and the nature of space

16: The paradoxes of motion and the possibility of change

17: Tense and the reality of time

18: Causation and the direction of time

Part VI Universals and Particulars

19: Realism versus nominalism

20: The abstract and the concrete

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标签

形而上学

哲学

Lowe

metaphysics

英文

分析的形而上学

t形而上学

Philosophia

评论

似乎没有更合适的当代形而上学入门读物了。有些地方，虽然绕得厉害，也是为了尽可能地涵盖各方观点。作为一本教材级的读本，尤其值得称道的是它极好的论证语言，完全可以当做学习英文论证性写作的模板。专选一种颜色的N次贴用来标记特别出彩的论证句，是除了理论阅读之外的另一份仪式性的愉悦。

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看了前七章。难度在于逻辑很简练，适合做升级教材

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作为一种区别与传统的当代形而上学导论而言是很不错…对可能世界和模态逻辑的语义学阐释很好…时空的那几张挺多余…作者倒是想摆脱相对论的物理学解释给一个中立的形而上学的时空观…可惜俺没看出来有什么创见…

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其实不算survey，很多模块并没有把领域基本的结构以及literature呈现出来。更像是一篇essay，很多地方Lowe都在argue自己的想法，但是有可能是篇幅所限，很多观点我

实在不觉得convincing。不过作为upper division textbook, 这样的写法至少保证了深度, 非常well-informed and reliable, 而且不得不说elegantly written, 所以还是五星啦

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书评

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