Types of Time Machines and Practical Time Travel

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Abstract

Based on specified logical, ontological, and other relevant considerations, it is concluded that in the very-long-run: (1) forward-directed time travel capacity is highly likely; and, (2) past-directed time travel capacity is likely. Four logically possible forward-directed, and four logically possible past-directed, types of (hypothetical) time machines are identified. Two different approaches (the "practical"; the "bi-temporal") are utilized in attempting to characterize the meaning of time travel. It apparently turns out that the concept of "embedded-subjective time" (i.e. the embedded-temporality of the human time-traveler, as distinguished from either merely-subjective time or literal-wristwatch time) is especially helpful in characterizing whether time travel did or did not occur in a particular circumstance.

Key words: Cryonics, Future, Future-technology, Many-worlds, Multiverse, Ontology, Suspended-animation, Transhuman

Introduction

To what extent may time travel be possible? Herein I consider this question and attempt to develop one plausible answer. I do not mean that other answers may not be plausible. I do not mean that my answer is necessarily correct. Indeed, I am neither a mathematician nor a physicist, so I am especially hopeful that those with mathematical-scientific expertise will critically examine my speculative schema and mutually dialogue with me about time travel. I would like to hear from other scholars as well, especially with reference to the ethics of time travel.

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