

Contents

Acknowledgements — 1

1 Laws of Nature — 3

- 1.1 Preamble — 3
- 1.1.1 Blue Print Ontology and Agnosticism — 4
- 1.2 Laws of Nature — 5
- 1.2.1 Characteristics of Laws of Nature — 6
- 1.2.2 Theories about Laws of Nature — 21

2 Analyses of dispositions — 31

- 2.1 Disposition Ascriptions and Dispositions — 31
- 2.2 Conditionals and Reductions — 33
- 2.3 The Simple Conditional Analysis — 37
- 2.4 Carnap's Reduction Sentences — 41
- 2.5 The Simple Counterfactual Conditional Analysis — 45
- 2.5.1 Finks — 47
- 2.6 Lewis' Reformed Conditional Analysis — 48
- 2.6.1 Masks and Antidotes — 51
- 2.7 Malzkorn's Sophisticated Conditional Analysis — 55
- 2.8 Choi and Gundersen's Context-Dependent Analysis — 61
- 2.9 Manley and Wasserman's Gradable Disposition Ascriptions — 62
- 2.10 Fara's Habituals — 65
- 2.11 The Basic Problem of the Conditionalising Attempts — 67

3 Composition — 71

- 3.1 Mill on Component Causes — 71
- 3.1.1 The Status of Component Causes — 76
- 3.2 Millikan's Oil Drop Experiment — 81
- 3.3 Manifestations Between Dispositions and Behaviour — 84
- 3.3.1 Symmetry Argument — 84
- 3.3.2 Trias — 91
- 3.4 Towards an Triadic Ontology — 97
- 3.4.1 The Functions f and f_a as Systematic Links Between Wirkungen and Behaviour. — 99
- 3.4.2 Powers With Built-In Combination Rules — 102

4 Progressing to Processes — 106

4.1	Manifestation Dynamics —	106
4.1.1	Trigger Happy? —	108
4.1.2	Timing —	110
4.2	Processes —	112
4.2.1	Action and Process —	114
4.2.2	Processes and the Prevention Problem —	115
4.2.3	A Dynamic Disposition Ontology —	120
5	Dispositional Laws of Nature —	123
5.1	The Triadic Process Account and the Law Characteristics —	123
5.1.1	Truth —	124
5.1.2	Objectivity —	125
5.1.3	Universality —	125
5.1.4	Grounding Counterfactuals —	126
5.1.5	Role in Science —	127
5.2	Necessity —	128
5.2.1	Bird's Necessary Laws —	132
5.2.2	Kit Fine's Varieties of Necessity —	136
5.2.3	Modality within the Triadic Account —	139
 Case File — 145		
 Theories of Dispositions — 149		
 The Story of Zucky — 151		
 Bibliography — 153		
 Author Index — 161		
 Index — 163		