

On Clocks

Due — Tuesday, May 1, 2001 (midnight)

I. Analog clocks

- A. Analyse an ordinary “analog” clock (i.e., one with an hour, minute, and second hand). Specifically, say (i) what it is to claim that the clock is analog; (ii) whether it is in fact analog; (iii) whether there are non-analog parts, along with the analog parts (if any); etc.
1. You should assume the second hand moves continuously (i.e., that it does *not* move in discrete “ticks”).
 2. Feel free to rely, for your analysis, on either Haugeland’s or Goodman’s analysis of what it is to be digital, and/or your own.
 3. You may find it helpful to distinguish (i) the internal workings—i.e., the clockwork mechanism, (ii) our reading or perception of the clock face, and (iii) the (non-effective) semantic interpretation between the clock face and what it is convenient to call the *o’clock properties* (such as “being 4:23 p.m.”) that hold of particular metaphysical moments.
 4. Note: This problem may seem relatively straightforward. But no one has gotten it entirely right in the previous three times I have taught this class (twice at IU, once before that at Stanford). In prior versions at Stanford, however, some students have nailed it. Hint: what is particularly intriguing is the relationship among the three hands.

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