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The Problem of the Laws of Nature in *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*

Abstract: The general goal of this article is to evaluate Wittgenstein’s solutions to philosophical problems of causality and the law of nature constructed in *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*; this goal will be pursued in three distinct stages. *First*, I will focus on eliminating traditional concepts of causality and necessity; the austrian philosopher does not recommend eliminating the concept of causality from everyday speech or thinking about the world; the common language is fine, being fully logically ordered. As we shall see, Wittgenstein’s aim was to eliminate the necessitarian view of causality and, implicitly, the idea of causal necessity. *Second*, I will identify the type of approach proposed by Wittgenstein in the problem of the laws of nature. For this purpose, I will review the most important kinds of approaches to the law of nature in contemporary philosophy – the necessitarian, regularist, structural, and instrumentalist approaches - and then I will conclude that, even if there are elements that converge towards a structural solution in the problem of the laws of nature, however, Wittgenstein’s position is an instrumentalist one. *Third*, I will evaluate Wittgenstein’s solution to the problem of the laws of science. I will argue that the general principles of science, such as the principle of causality, are understood by Wittgenstein as indications for the construction of first-order laws, proposed by a certain system of natural sciences. Consequently, a meaningful proposition constructed according to the principles of a certain system in the natural sciences will take on a certain form of representation, peculiar to that system. Therefore, Wittgenstein, proposing a minimalist way of understanding the laws of science, had a modest influence on philosophers who focused on this subject in the philosophy of the twentieth century.

Keywords: Wittgenstein, causality, natural necessity, laws of nature, laws of science, instrumentalism, regularism, structural laws