



The Logical Leap: Induction in Physics

By David Harriman

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A groundbreaking solution to the problem of induction, based on Ayn Rand's theory of concepts.

Inspired by and expanding on a series of lectures presented by Leonard Peikoff, David Harriman presents a fascinating answer to the problem of induction—the epistemological question of how we can know the truth of inductive generalizations.

Ayn Rand presented her revolutionary theory of concepts in her book *Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology*. As Dr. Peikoff subsequently explored the concept of induction, he sought out David Harriman, a physicist who had taught philosophy, for his expert knowledge of the scientific discovery process.

Here, Harriman presents the result of a collaboration between scientist and philosopher. Beginning with a detailed discussion of the role of mathematics and experimentation in validating generalizations in physics—looking closely at the reasoning of scientists such as Galileo, Kepler, Newton, Lavoisier, and Maxwell—Harriman skillfully argues that the inductive method used in philosophy is in principle indistinguishable from the method used in physics.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

David Harriman worked as a physicist for the U.S. Department of Defense and taught philosophy at California State University, San Bernardino. He recently founded the Falling Apple Science Institute, a nonprofit that promotes science education.

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