

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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