

# READINGS CONFIRMATION THEORY

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## Introduction

- Sep 5 Three approaches to confirmation
- Sep 12 Hempel's Big Paper
  - ▷ Hempel, C., 1945. *Studies in the logic of confirmation*. *Mind* 54, 1-26, 97-121. Reprinted in *Aspects of Scientific Explanation*, chap. 1. Free Press, New York.

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## The Bayesian Way

- Sep 19 How Bayesianism Works
  - ▷ Strevens, *Notes on Bayesian Confirmation Theory* (hereafter *BCT Notes*), §1-6.
- Sep 26 Bayesianism, Induction, and Problems of Confirmation
  - ▷ *BCT Notes*, §7-8;
  - ▷ Horwich, P., *Probability and Evidence*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1982, 54-63; 118-122.
- Oct 3 No class
- Oct 10 Auxiliary and Ad Hoc Hypotheses
  - ▷ *BCT Notes*, §10;
  - ▷ Howson, C. and P. Urbach, *Scientific Reasoning: The Bayesian Approach*, third edition., Open Court, Chicago, 2006, 103-114; 118-126.
- Oct 17 Subjective/Objective
  - ▷ *BCT Notes*, §9;
  - ▷ van Fraassen, B., *Laws and Symmetry*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1989, chap. 12;
  - Recommended: read one of the following . . .
    - ▷ Howson and Urbach, 265-297;
    - ▷ Salmon, W., Rationality and objectivity in science, or Tom Kuhn meets Tom Bayes, in C. W. Savage (ed.), *Scientific Theories*, volume 14 of *Minnesota Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1990;
    - ▷ Earman, J., *Bayes or Bust?*, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1992, chap. 6.

- Oct 24 Old Evidence and New Theories  
▷ BCT Notes, §11;  
▷ Glymour, C., *Theory and Evidence*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 1980 pp. 85–93;  
▷ Earman, chap. 5.
- Oct 31 Presentations, Discussion

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### *Instantialism Updated*

- Nov 7 Glymour's Instantialism  
▷ Glymour, C., *Relevant evidence*, *Journal of Philosophy* 72, 403–426, 1972.  
First paper due ◁ Due date
- Nov 14 Causal Instantialism  
▷ Strevens, M., manuscript. In praise of instance confirmation.
- Nov 21 Presentations, Discussion

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### *Other Topics*

- Nov 28 Evidence  
Williamson, T., *Knowledge and Its Limits*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2000, chap. 9.
- Dec 5 The Social Structure of Science  
▷ Strevens, M., The role of the priority rule in science, *Journal of Philosophy* 100, 55–79, 2003;  
▷ Recommended: Kitcher, P., The division of cognitive labor, *Journal of Philosophy* 87, 5–21, 1990.
- Dec 12 No class (Thursday schedule), but second paper is due Dec 13th. ◁ Due date
- Dec 14 Make-up class (11 AM to 1 PM)  
Presentations, Discussion, Further topics