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Four Kinds of Perspectival Truth

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relativism

- our scientific knowledge claims about worldly states of affairs are *perspective-dependent*
- that electrons have **half-integral spin** depends on our currently accepted scientific perspective



~~relativism~~

I hate relativism



Charybdis 10 



Legendary Creature - Leviathan Horror 

Charybdis costs X less to cast, where X is the number of cards in your graveyard.

When Charybdis enters the battlefield, tap up to X target creatures. Those creatures don't untap during their controller's untap step as long as you control Charybdis.

Partner with Scylla

8/8

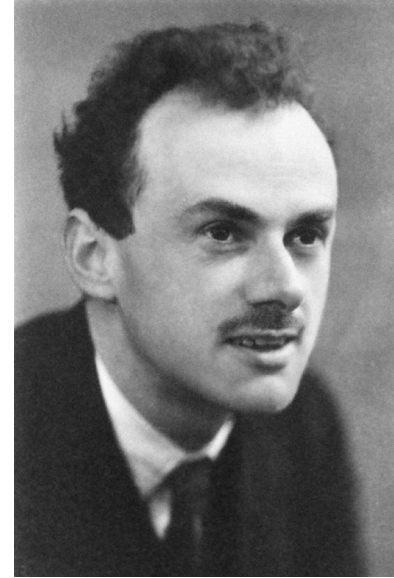
• EN  CATALIN LARTIST ™ & © 2019 Wizards of the Coast

'objectivist' realism



- states of affairs about the world are *perspective-independent*
- that there are **electrons** is a state of affair about nature and its ultimate constituents

Epistemic Pluralism



'objectivist' realism

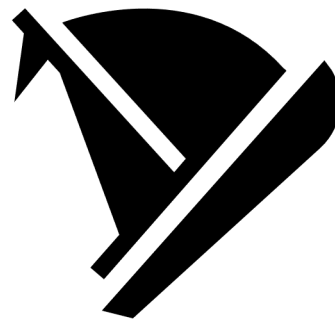


- how can *anyone* ever be in the position of knowing whether *their belief that theory x is true* is indeed correct?

'objectivist' realism



relativism



perspectival realism

Perspectival Realism

- *what is it like* to be a realist about science while also acknowledging that our beliefs in the truth of any scientific theory are inevitably situated and perspectival?
- *how* can we be realist despite epistemic pluralism and the ever-changing bounds of our scientific perspectives?
- can our scientific knowledge claims be *perspectival*, while also being claims about the world as *it is*?



Main Question

- What is it like to be *true within a scientific perspective?*

Strategy

- what is the *minimal realist commitment* that should be upheld in cashing out a viable notion of perspectival truth?
- why does perspectivalism pose a *hurdle* to it?
- how can the hurdle be overcome?

Minimal Realist Commitment

- Getting Things Right
 - what science *ought* to do
 - science *ought* to map onto reality in a truthful way
 - getting things right is a *norm* about what we take science to be about

**I'M NOT
BOSSY
I JUST KNOW
WHAT YOU
SHOULD BE DOING**
little Miss Bossy



Hurdle

- how can anyone ever know that they are Getting Things Right?

Success from Everywhere



- success from here now

(P) Perspective-dependence

- (P) knowledge claims in science are dependent on a given historically and/or intellectually situated scientific perspective

(P) Perspective-dependence

- (P) knowledge claims in science are dependent on a given historically and/or intellectually situated scientific perspective
- 3 + 1 ways of understanding (P)



(P₁) Perspective-dependence₁

- (P₁) knowledge claims in science are **perspective-dependent₁** when their *propositional contents* depend on the scientific perspective in which such claims are made

(P_1) Perspective-indexicality

- claim: <it is sunny here>
- index: September 9th, 2020
- index: April 14th, 1638

(P₁) Problem

- claim: <the Earth is orbiting the Sun>
- perspective: *present day* (True)
- perspective: *Ptolemaic* (???)
- different *truth-makers*

(P₁) Problem

- claim: <the Earth is orbiting the Sun>
- perspective: *present day* (True)
- perspective: *Ptolemaic* (???)
- different *truth-makers*
- can (P₁) Get Things Right?



(P₂) Perspective-dependence₂

- (P₂) knowledge claims in science are **perspective-dependent₂** when their *truth-values* depend on the scientific perspective in which such knowledge claims are made

(P₂) Perspective-relativity

- claim: <the Earth is orbiting the Sun>
- perspective: *present day* (True)
- perspective: *Ptolemaic* (False)

(P₂) Problem

- conflicting truths
- claim_a: <the Earth *is* orbiting the Sun>
- claim_b: <the Earth *is not* orbiting the Sun>

(P₂) Problem

- conflicting truths
- claim_a: <the Earth *is* orbiting the Sun>
- claim_b: <the Earth *is not* orbiting the Sun>
- explained away any disagreement
- Gets Things *Wrong*

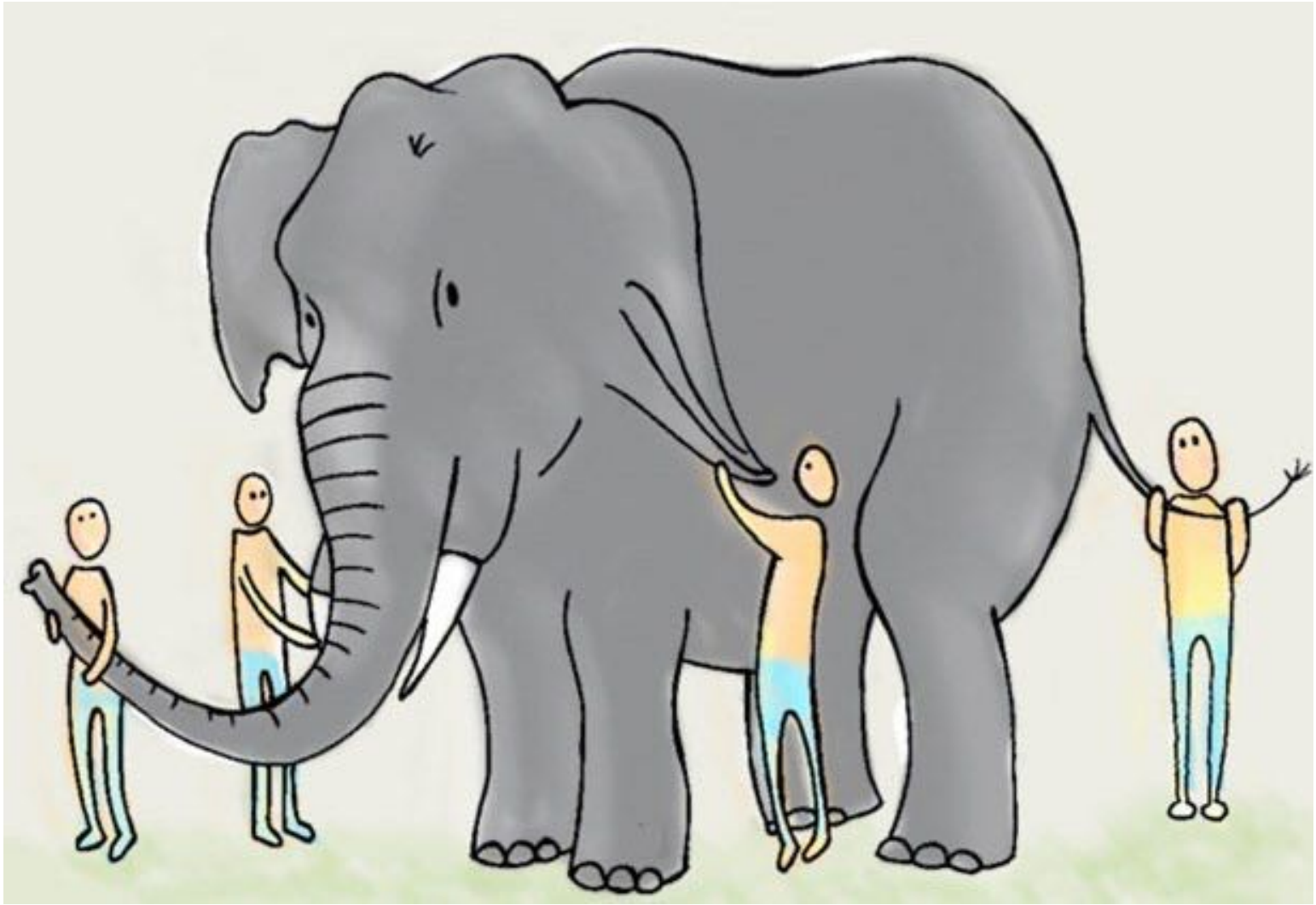


(P₃) Perspective-dependence₃

- (P₃) knowledge claims in science are **perspective-dependent₃** when their *truth-conditions* depend on the scientific perspective in which such claims are made

(P₃) Perspective-sensitivity

- claim: <water is a liquid with viscosity>
- context of use: *hydrodynamics* (True)
- context of use: *statistical mechanics* (False)
- Gets *some* Things Right



(P₃) Problem

- *Truth recedes into the distance*



(P₄) Perspective-dependence₄

- (P₄) knowledge claims in science are **perspective-dependent₄** when their *truth-conditions* (understood as *rules for determining truth-values* based on features of the context of use) depend on the scientific perspective in which such claims are made; yet such knowledge claims must also be *assessable from the point of view of other* (subsequent or rival) *scientific perspectives*

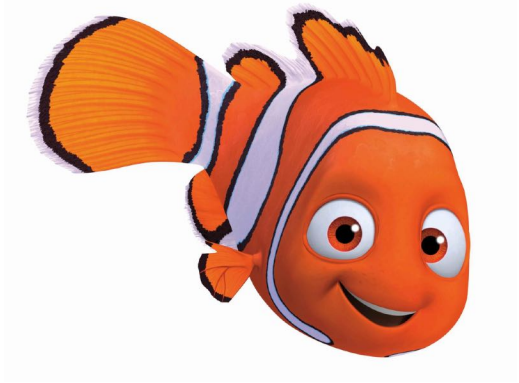
$(P_4) P_3^+$

- context of use *and* context of assessment
- take (P_3) and add:
 - standards of performance-adequacy
 - assessment across various perspectives

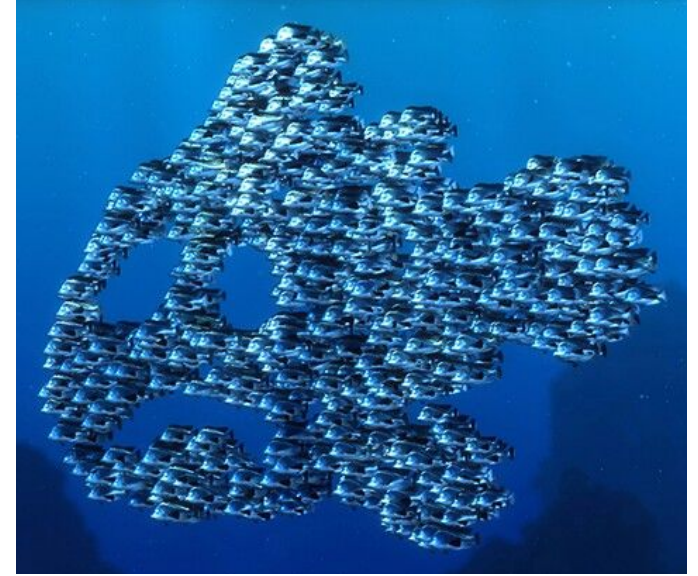
(P₄) Standards of Performance-adequacy

- accuracy
- empirical testability
- projectability
- heuristic fruitfulness
- etc.

hydrodynamic
perspective



statistical mechanical
perspective



viscosity

cross perspectival
assessor



*momentum
transport
across laminae
of mean flow*






(P_4) P_4 In Action

- claim_1 : <the electron is a structural element of an elastic ether>
- claim_2 : <the electron has half-integral spin>

(P₄) P₄ In Action

- claim₁: <the electron is a structural element of an elastic ether>
- claim₂: <the electron has half-integral spin>
- evaluate ongoing performance: 
- Getting Things Right: 

Gems

-  avoided unnecessary abstraction/formalism
-  good use of examples
-  not overreaching