uvádí



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REALISM AND RETENTION IN CHEMISTRY

In this paper I tentatively explore the historical evidence for a bold claim: that theories of molecular structure have, since the 1860s, developed through a series of conservative extensions, despite some apparently radical theoretical and conceptual change during this time. A conservative extension of a theory is one where its inferential content *before* the extension (i.e. that which determines its explanatory and predictive power) is a proper subset of its inferential content afterwards. This will happen when a theory is extended or reinterpreted so that inferences can be made concerning phenomena about which no inferences were previously made.

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