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Physical Idealization as Plausible Inference, Vol. 4 (Classic Reprint)

By Ernest Davis

Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Physical Idealization as Plausible Inference, Vol. 4 The analysis of physical systems almost always relies on idealized models of the objects involved. Any idealization, however, will be incorrect or insufficiently accurate some of the time. It seems reasonable, therefore, to view a physical idealization as a defeasible inference which can be withdrawn in the presence of contrary evidence. This talk discusses the consequences of such a view. We focus on examples where a system may or may not go into a state where idealizations are violated, such as dropping a ball near an open switch connected across a battery. We show that: 1. Non-monotonic logics will try to enforce the idealization by supposing that the ball will miss the switch. This anomaly does not seem to be solvable by the kinds of techniques that have been applied to the Yale Shooting Problem, which it superficially resembles. We show that this problem is analogous to anomalies in non-monotonic logic that are time-independent. 2. A probabilistic analysis is possible, but it relies on independence assumptions that are...



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