

deliberation-and-the-problem-of-optional-stoppingDeliberation and the Problem of Optional Stoppingdeliberation-
and-the-problem-of-optional-stopping

In the last chapter, I tried to incorporate the Peircean notion of abduction into a broadly probabilist framework by means of van Fraassen's voluntarism. There is an important synergy between the voluntarist idea that epistemic judgments are speech acts with normative implications and Peirce's conception of rationality as deliberate conducts. More important is Peirce's rich notion of abduction, which goes beyond the mere appeal to explanatory values, supplies the context sensitivity needed to understand the Reflection Principle.

The main lesson, I suggested, is that the normative force that regulates epistemic commitments incurred by making a probabilistic judgment cannot be understood without the context in which it is made. An assertion, as Peirce suggests, has no normative force unless the assertion is underwritten by an epistemic practice that incentivizes the agent to stand by the obligations imposed upon her. Dutch book scenarios, though in general unrealistic, can be seen as one such context, since in the setup the agent is stipulated to make bets and revise her degrees of belief in a specific way.

In this chapter, I endeavor to develop this position in the specific context of inductive and statistical inference. Essentially, I am defending the following slogan:

quote The deliberativist thesis: inductive inference must be interpreted in light of its deliberative framework.