

*Edwin T. Jaynes*

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# ***Probability Theory: The logic of science***

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Part I

**Principles and Elementary  
Applications**



# 1

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## *Plausible Reasoning*

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The actual science of logic is conversant at present only with things either certain, impossible, or entirely doubtful, none of which (fortunately) we have to reason on. Therefore the true logic for this world is the calculus of Probabilities, which takes account of the magnitude of the probability which is, or ought to be, in a reasonable man's mind.  
– James Clerk Maxwell (1850)