

LECTURE 21: THEORETICAL TERMS

Reading for today: “Logical foundations of the unity of science”; Reading for Wed: Hempel, “The theoretician’s dilemma”.

1. theoretical constructs / demarcation / empirical content
2. Reduction and explicit definition
 - (a) Examples
 - i. Russellian logical constructs
 - ii. Thermodynamics and statistical mechanics
 - iii. Mental states and brain states
 - (b) What is an explicit definition?
 - (c) Reduction bases
 - i. Sense data
 - ii. The physical language
 - iii. The thing language: sublanguage which is the common part of the prescientific language and the physical language
 - (d) Why did Carnap give up on explicit definition?
3. The empirical content of disposition terms
 - (a) The problem with the naive analysis [material conditionals]
 - (b) Conditional definitions
4. Physicalism: the whole language of science is reducible to the language of physics
5. The later Carnap: partial interpretation