



درباره پیشرفت مدل‌های علمی

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Abstract:

Thomas Kuhn's theory of structure of scientific revolutions describes different scientific cycles which lead to "paradigm shifts". Paradigm shifts are rare occurrences and what is more common is progress/improvement in scientific models. In this talk I take a closer look into the process of progress in scientific models, as a physicist (and not as a philosopher or historian of science). To this end, I first introduce and discuss terms meta-theory, theory and model. Meta-theory is close to what Thomas Kuhn calls paradigm but there are conceptual differences. Theory in empirical sciences, while is close to the same concept used in mathematics, has some important differences. Models are setups which are closest to the real world and direct empirical tests. As the main part of the discussion, I discuss how scientific models evolve and improve, and provide tangible criteria to measure progress in evolution of scientific models.

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