

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE, WITH SPECIAL CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO BEHAVIORISM AS THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCIENCE OF BEHAVIOR

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The philosophy of science is the branch of philosophy that critically examines the foundations, assumptions, methods, products, and implications of the activity called science. The present sketch reviews the historical development of the philosophy of science, representative individuals in the field, and topics of longstanding interest. The sketch is intended to prepare readers for subsequent discussions on behaviorism, cognitive psychology, and the meaning of mental terms.

Key words: philosophy of science, logical positivism, operational definition, intervening variable, hypothetical construct, mediational neobehaviorism, radical behaviorism