

Written Assignment 3

- Either (a) One possible view of the nature of scientific theories (“operationalism”) is that they are simply “shorthand accounts of the [experimental] phenomena themselves, effecting an ‘economy of thought’ in dealing with them” (Hesse). Examine this view as applied either to Newtonian mechanics, or to the wave theory of light.
- or (b) Explain in your own words, but as clearly as possible, why it is difficult to reconcile the Galilean invariance of Newtonian mechanics with the classical electromagnetic theory of Maxwell.

The assignment is due by 5:00 p.m. on Fri. Oct. 8