

Newton's Idea and Practice of Unification

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Abstract

In this paper I try to capture Newton's notion and practice of unification (I will mainly focus on the Principia). I will use contemporary theories on unification in philosophy of science as analytic tools (Kitcher, Schurz and Salmon). I will argue that Salmon's later work on the topic provides a good starting point to characterize Newton's notion and practice. However, in order to fully grasp Newton's idea and practice of unification, Salmon's model needs to be fleshed out and extended.

Keywords: Newton, Unification, case-study, Principia, HPS, Kitcher, Schurz, Salmon

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Subjects: General Issues: Explanation

General Issues: History of Science Case Studies

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