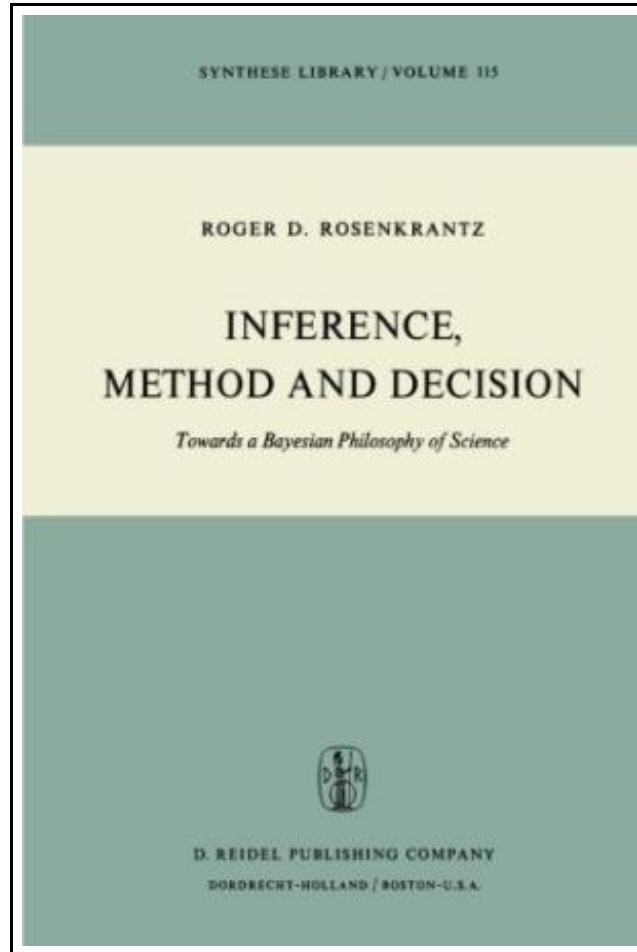


## Inference, Method, and Decision



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Book Condition: New. Publisher/Verlag: Springer Netherlands | Towards a Bayesian Philosophy of Science | This book grew out of previously published papers of mine composed over a period of years; they have been reworked (sometimes beyond recognition) so as to form a reasonably coherent whole. Part One treats of informative inference. I argue (Chapter 2) that the traditional principle of induction in its clearest formulation (that laws are confirmed by their positive cases) is clearly false. Other formulations in terms of the ‘uniformity of nature’ or the ‘resemblance of the future to the past’ seem to me hopelessly unclear. From a Bayesian point of view, ‘learning from experience’ goes by conditionalization (Bayes’ rule). The traditional stumbling block for Bayesians has been to find objective probability inputs to conditionalize upon. Subjective Bayesians allow any probability inputs that do not violate the usual axioms of probability. Many subjectivists grant that this liberality seems prodigal but own themselves unable to think of additional constraints that might plausibly be imposed. To be sure, if we could agree on the correct probabilistic representation of ‘ignorance’ (or absence of pertinent data), then all probabilities obtained by applying Bayes’ rule to an ‘informationless’ prior would be objective. But familiar contradictions, like the Bertrand paradox, are thought to vitiate all attempts to objectify ‘ignorance’. Building on the earlier work of Sir Harold Jeffreys, E. T. Jaynes, and the more recent work of G. E. P. Box and G. E. Tiao, I have elected to bite this bullet. In Chapter 3, I develop and defend an objectivist Bayesian approach. | One: Informative Inference.- 1 / Information.- 1. Introduction.- 2. The Utility of Information.- 3. Disinterested Information.- 4. Noiseless Information.- 5. Fisher’s Information.- 6. Conclusion.- 2 / The Paradoxes of Confirmation.- 1. General Laws.- 2. Resolution of the Paradoxes.-...



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