

THE METHOD OF REFLECTIVE EQUILIBRIUM:

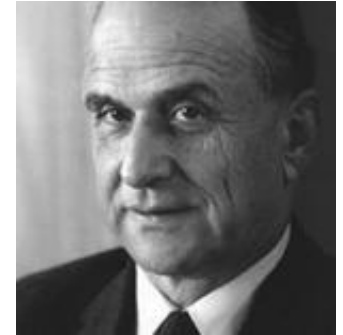
A Solution to the Problem of Induction?

THE PROBLEM OF INDUCTION

- How do we know that our inductive inferences are valid?
 - Ex: The rising of the sun tomorrow
- How do we justify our beliefs?
 - Intuitions vs. Observations



REFLECTIVE EQUILIBRIUM



- Idea introduced by Nelson Goodman, but given name by John Rawls
- *The state at which one's intuitions about some particular case are in complete agreement with one's general theory about that case.*
- Narrow vs. Wide
- Ex: Kripke's Ben Franklin example

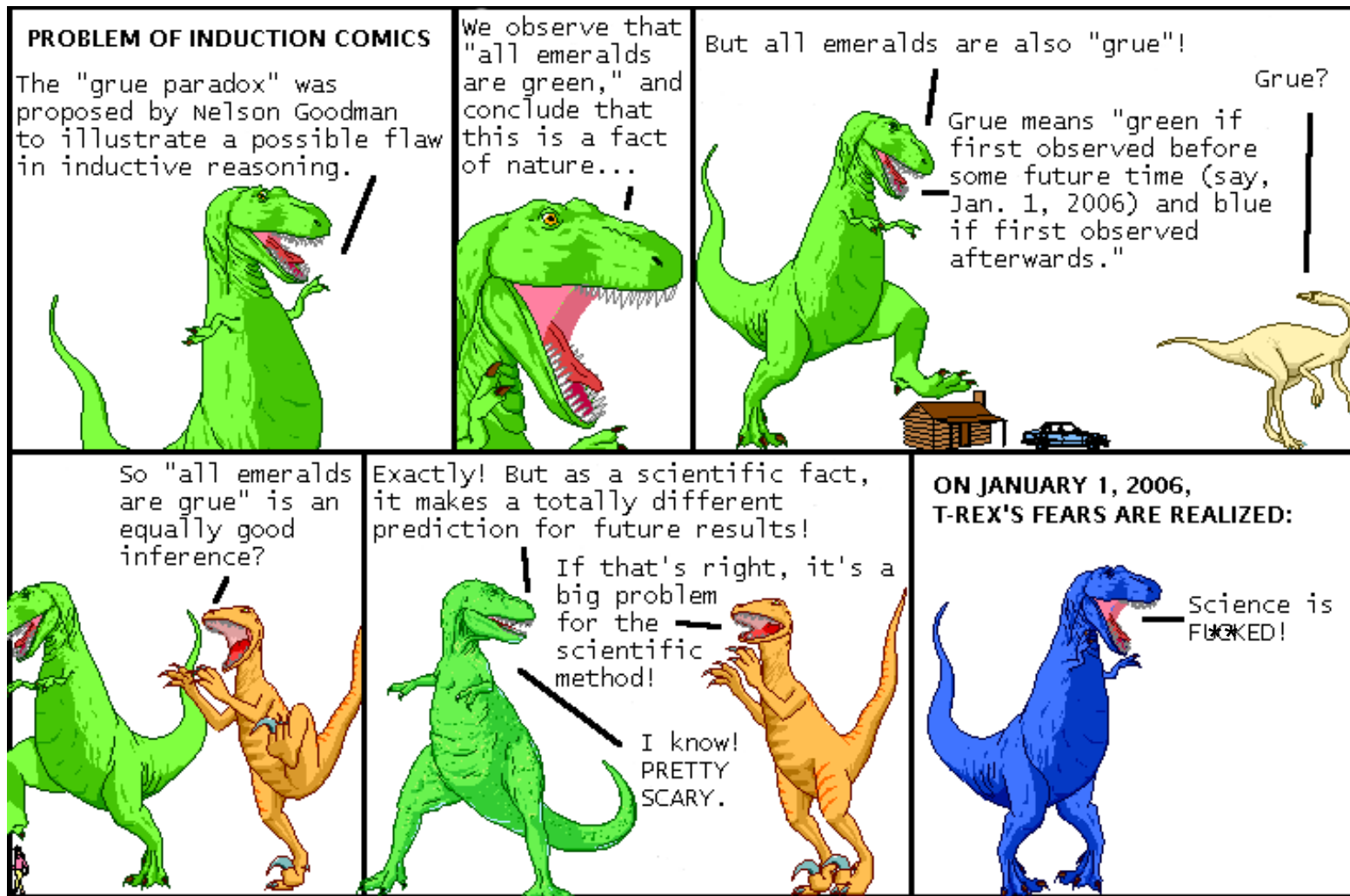


THE METHOD OF REFLECTIVE EQUILIBRIUM

- The process by which one seeks Reflective Equilibrium, i.e., the process of balancing intuitions and theories
 - Justification for our beliefs provided by coherence
- “A rule is amended if it yields an inference we are unwilling to accept; an inference is rejected if it violates a rule we are unwilling to amend” (Goodman 67).
- Method of RE a replacement for Method of Induction?

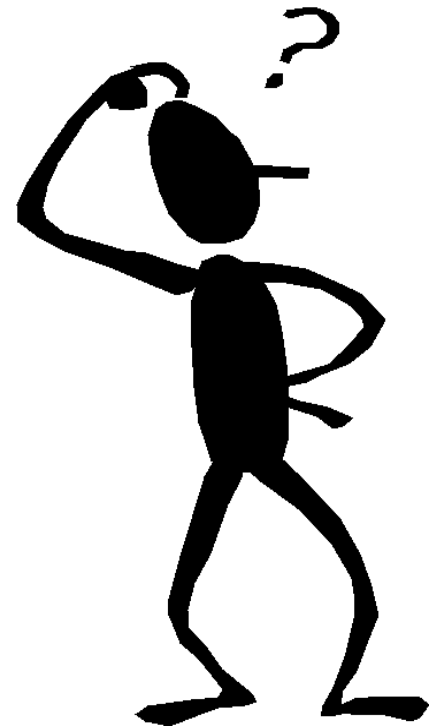


THE RELIABILITY OF OBSERVATIONS AND THE NEW RIDDLE OF INDUCTION



PROBLEMS FOR THE METHOD OF RE

- Coherence does not imply truth
 - The Gambler's Fallacy
- Pluralism
 - Problem in science
 - Ex: Geocentric vs. Heliocentric
- Stich ...



REFERENCES

- Goodman photo:
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~phildept/images/goodman.jpg>
- Goodman, Nelson. Fact, Fiction, and Forecast. Harvard University Press: Cambridge, 1955.
- Grue comic: <http://www.qwantz.com/fanart/grue.png>
- Professor Marcus' notes

