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Author: McKaughan, Daniel J.
Title: From Ugly Duckling to Swan: C. S. Peirce, Abduction, and the Pursuit of Scientific Theories
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Abstract: The article focuses on the notion of abduction of American philosopher Charles S. Peirce which is inferred to be the fundamental problem of modern epistemology. It discusses the traditional interpretation of Peirce on abduction which is seen as a formula for generating new theoretical discoveries and as a mode of reasoning that justifies beliefs about the probable truth of theories. Furthermore, it develops and defends a third interpretation, according to which Peirce takes abductive reasoning to result to judgments about the relative pursuitworthiness of theories, conclusions that can be thoroughly disconnected from assessments of truth value.
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