

## Assessment 6 Theory Change and Scientific Progress

*Note: For this assessment, you will refer to the previous reading, H. Kragh's "A Sense of Crisis: Physics in the Fin-de-siecle Era."*

Kragh's article summarizes developments in physical theory from 1880 to 1910. Since this was a period of rapid and major change in fundamental physical theory, Kragh's article is relevant to assessing philosophical accounts of theory change and scientific progress.

Select either Kuhn's, Lakatos', or Laudan's account of theory change and scientific progress. Describe this account, and then use the information from Kragh's article to assess the extent to which the account shows that the changes that occurred in fundamental physical theory from 1880 to 1910 were rational changes.

