

Philosophy of chemistry is a new subdiscipline of the philosophy of science. Only a decade ago this philosophical field acquired autonomy with respect to the philosophy of physics. This late development was mainly due to an assumption about the relationship between chemistry and physics according to which chemistry can be explained in principle by quantum mechanics. From this perspective, since chemistry is only a branch of physics, it does not have specific problems in need of philosophical analysis. However, in the mid-1990s, traditional assumptions and the reductionistic standpoint began to be questioned. At present, many authors deny that chemistry can be reduced to physics.