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Images in Science: The Periodic Table

The use of images in natural sciences is widespread although sciences are normally characterized by experimenting and calculating. The periodic table became the emblem of chemistry. Although it seems to represent the order and eternal uniformity in nature, it stands in the focus of debates in the philosophy of chemistry. The paper presents a realist interpretation of the periodic system relying on the term of "natural system". This analysis aims to show that a picture, a table, can be interpreted as a realist interpretation of nature.

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