

Review of: "Induction: an Afterthought"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The short paper by Uwe Saint-Mont is unusually elegant considering the weight of the philosophical problem it carries. I confess to not being an expert on the subject but was attracted to the Note for its brevity. I beg forgiveness if the following remarks are amateurish or even ignorant.

Induction “leaps from ‘less to more’”. Deduction is movement in the opposite direction, down the tiers. Are the two, then, symmetrical? There are no arrows directing the spirals, so beginning in the ‘centre’ of the figure on the right of Figure 2, or moving from bottom to top on the left-hand side of Figure 2, do we have deduction? Would the starting point in the spiral be B , a data point? Similarly, climbing down the shortening lines, do we conclude with a point, an instance B ? Likewise, moving down from the top to the bottom of the spiral on the right-hand side of 1., or from bottom to top in the left-hand adjacent side of the fourfold table, is it induction?

In that case, the implication sign can be directed either way.

I was also confused about the following. It seemed to me that B is an instance of the state of knowledge C , or B is a subset of C , and $A = B + C$, “the more informative layer A , consisting of B and C ”. How is A also then the intersection of B and C ? The answer in the next line, $I(A) = -\log(p(A))$, escaped me, I’m afraid!