

In J. Williamson & F. Russo (Eds.), *Key Terms in Logic*: Continuum.

Analogy

An analogy is a nonmonotonic logical function and a reasoning process. As a logical function, analogy is an identity of relation between two ordered pairs : in “A is to B as C is to D”, the particular elements are different but the functional relation is identical. As a reasoning process, an analogy is a structure-preserving mapping between two conceptual domains: a “source” and a “target”, the first one being familiar, the second unfamiliar. Properties of items in the source domain are applied to items in the target domain. Analogy is thought to be important in scientific abduction.

See also inference, inference to the best explanation, induction, logic, non monotonic

Benoit Hardy-Vallée
Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto
Jackman Humanities Building
170 St. George St., 4th Floor,
Toronto, ON, M5R 2M8
Phone: (416) 978-3316
Fax: (416) 978-8703
Email: ben.hardy.vallee@utoronto.ca
<http://hardyvallee.net>