

Reductive conceptual analysis

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Problems

- What is the method of conceptual analysis?
- Is it an analytic method?

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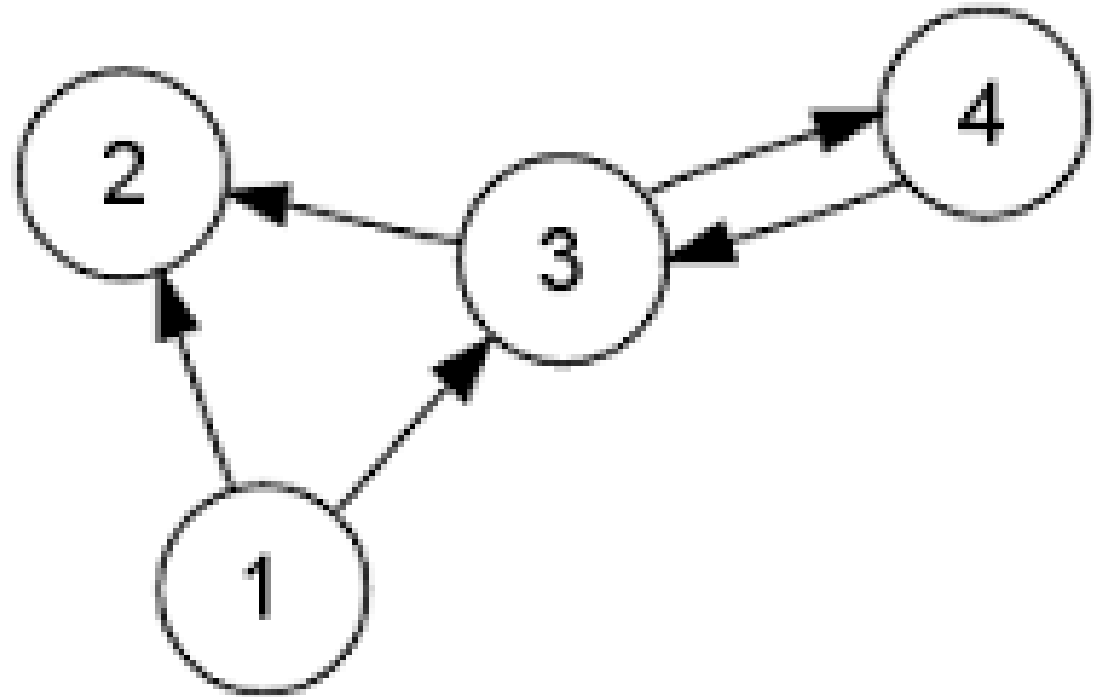
- What is method?
- What is a step in a method?
- What is knowledge state?
- What is a state?
- What is a problem?



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Method

- Guide
- Consists of steps
- Determined
- Differs from its realisation



Analytic method

Definition:

A method is analytic iff all its executive instructions are analytic.

Conceptual analysis (CA)

- CA is used to explore, state, analyze the place of a concept within the conceptual network of some language or theory.
- Concept
- Conceptual network

3 CA

- Normative CA
 - The problem motivating a normative ca is the lack of a relation among concepts in the explicit conceptual theory of a language.
- Detective CA
 - The problem motivating detection ca is the possibility of the existence of a conceptual relation in the implicit conceptual theory.
- Reductive CA
 - The problem leading up to a reductive ca is the existence of conceptual relation among different languages.

Reductive CA

- Provided our knowledge of explicit conceptual networks of studied languages, we study the possible relations among these networks.
- The problem is solved when the existence of such a relation is proved or shown to be impossible.

Reductive CA – The method

1. Specify the (part of) theory T in language L to be reduced!
2. Specify the (part of) theory T_0 in language L_0 into which the theory T will be reduced!
3. State the relation R between the theories T and T_0 that shall be respected!

Reductive CA – the method

4. State the reduction relation $T \rightarrow T_0$.

5. Test the reduction relation $T \rightarrow T_0$ using the knowledge base with respect to the relation R !

6. If the tests are positive, declare the reduction $T \rightarrow T_0$ between (a part of) theories T and T_0 !

- Let's check the analyticity.

Case study – F. Jackson, colour terms

- The theory to be reduced is *folk theory* of colour terms.

We know that objects have dispositions to look one or another colour, that they have dispositions to modify incident and transmitted light in ways that underlie their dispositions to look one or another colour, that they have physical properties that are responsible for both these dispositions, and that subjects have experiences as of things looking one or another colour. We also know that this list includes all the possibly relevant properties.

(Jackson (1998, 87))

- Special theory includes our empirical knowledge about colours.

We will see, how this fact, when combined with what science tells us, forces us to identify colours with certain physical properties.

(Jackson (1998, 88))

- Jackson reduces a simple term from folk theory into a complex term of a special theory.
- The important relation between these two theories is that they both must respect the same intuitions.
- The relevance of a theory is measured by the support it finds in folk intuitions.

- Proposed reduction:

Yellowness is a complex of the physical qualities of objects.

And likewise for all the colours. (Jackson, (1998, 93))

Problems of the method detection

- We have only results.
- They could be generated in many ways.
- The use of the method is underdetermined.

Thanks for your attention!