

Toulmin Diagrams: A Primer

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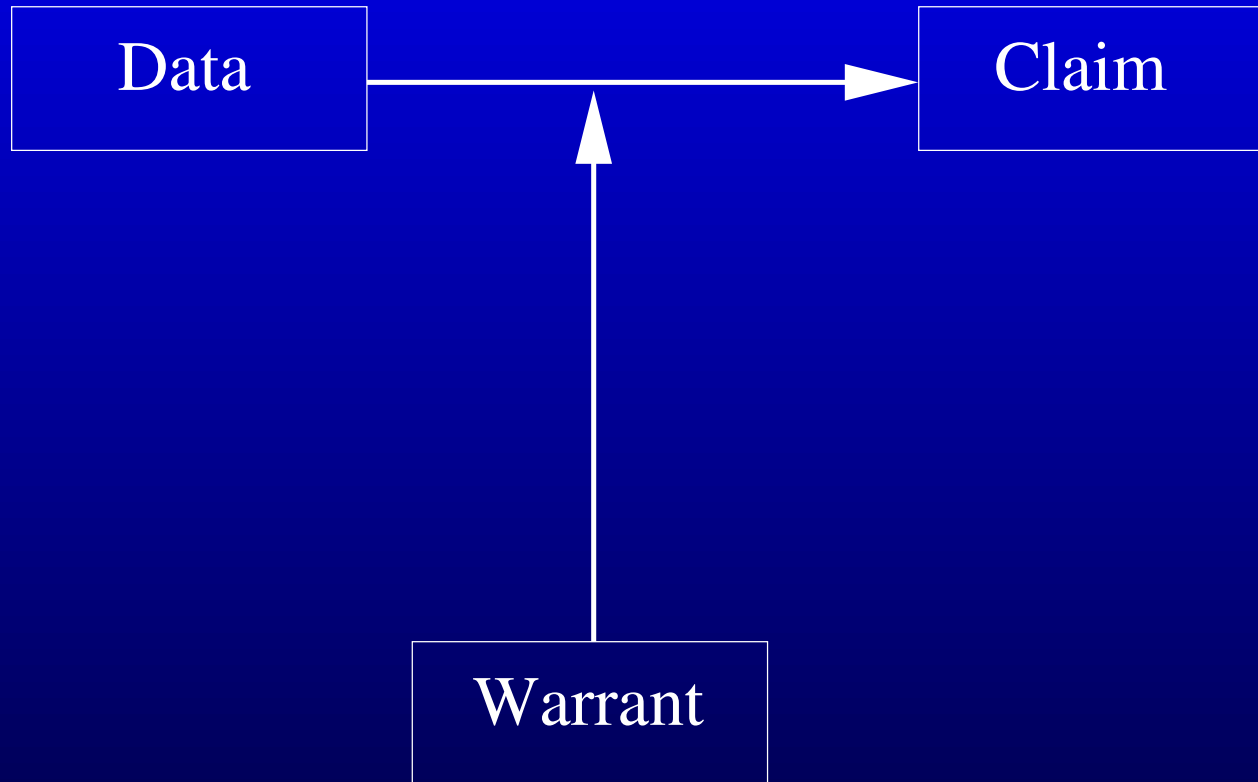
- Stephen A. Toulmin
- Philosopher, with interest in arguments. Why would the study of arguments be important?
- Important reference
Toulmin, Stephen, A. 1958. *The Uses of Argument*. London: Cambridge University Press.

Basic Idea

An argument has three components

- Data
- Warrant
- Claim

Basic Idea, Continued



An Example

Today, the price of milk has fallen. Milk and tea are complements, and when the price of a commodity decreases, the demand for the complement increases.

Therefore we expect the demand for tea to increase in the near future.

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- Conclusion

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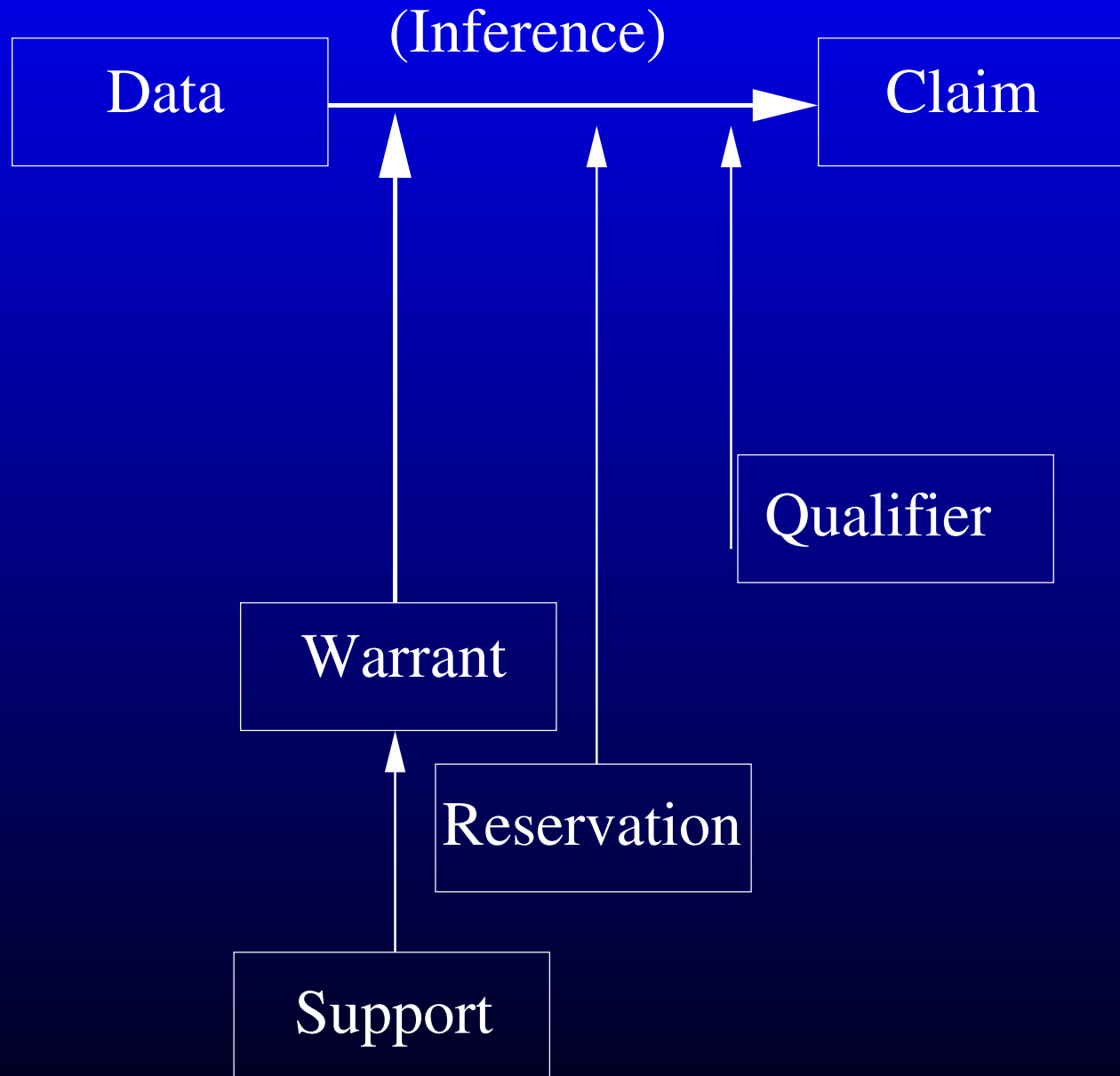
What is the...

- Conclusion The demand for tea will increase
- Data The price of milk has decreased
- Warrant Milk is a complement of tea, and we know from economic theory that an decrease in the price of a commodity increases the demand for its complements.

A More Complex Model

- Support (warrant)
- Qualifier (inference)
- Reservation (inference)

A More Complex Model, Continued



Fun Activity

Open to Chapter 28, on page 236 of your Speaking of Sexuality Textbook, and map the argument in the paper. First identify all the components of the simplified model, and then go on to identify the components of the more complex model. Be prepared to comment on your map.

Homework

Create Toulmin diagrams for all of your readings. Questions to consider include: How general is this strategy? Are there certain types of arguments where Toulmin's method are more useful? What assumptions about argument structure is he making? In what contexts are these appropriate? What other methods and models can we develop?