

THEORY & RESEARCH

SEM:V; CC:12;TOPIC:3.1



WHAT IS THEORY?

- !! Three components of research: Theory, Logic and Method
- !! **Theory: proposed relationship b/w two or more *concepts*.**
- !! **An explanation for why or how a phenomenon occurs.**
- !! ‘Logically interconnected sets of propositions from which empirical uniformities can be derived’ : R. K. Merton
- !! ‘A body of interconnected sets of proposition from which empirical uniformities can be derived’: T. Parsons

COMPONENTS OF SOCIAL THEORY

- Concepts
 - An abstraction from observed events: Seltiz et. al.
 - Possible/imagined properties of things, people or events: Dooley
- First order concepts & Second order concepts (constructs)
- Operationalization of concepts
 - Variable

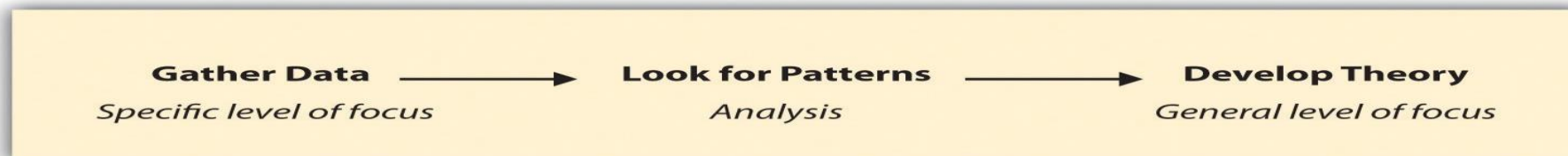
COMPONENTS OF SOCIAL THEORY

- Propositions
 - A theoretical statement that specifies the connection between two or more variables: Turner
- Univariate
- Bi-variate
- Multi-variate

THEORY BUILDING

INDUCTIVE & DEDUCTIVE

- ❖ Inductive approach starts with the observations and theories are proposed towards the end of the research process.
- ❖ Inductive research “involves the search for pattern from observation and the development of explanations – theories – for those patterns..”.



THEORY BUILDING

INDUCTIVE & DEDUCTIVE

- **Deductive approach** take the steps described for inductive research and reverse their order.
- They start with a social theory that they find compelling and then test its implications with data.
- Move from a more general level to a more specific one.
- A deductive approach to research is the one that people typically associate with scientific investigation.

Theorize/Hypothesize
General level of focus

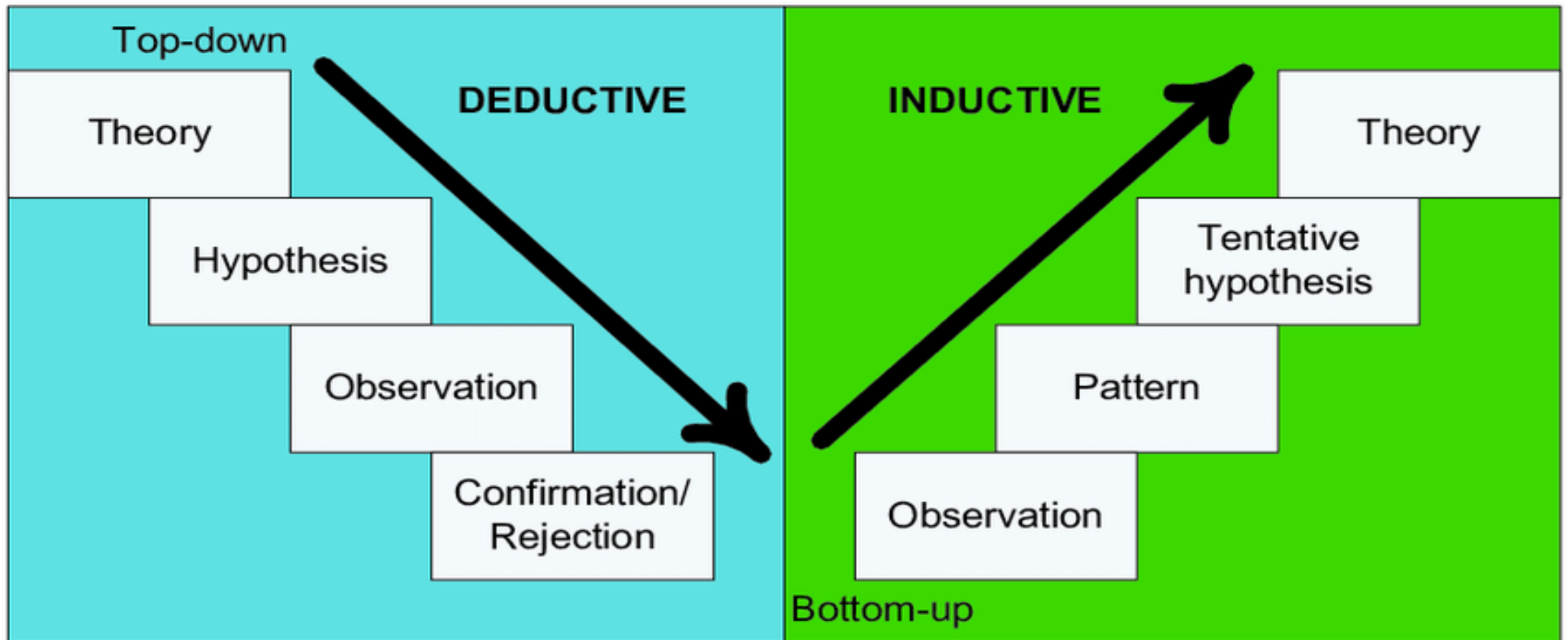


Analyze Data
Analysis



Hypotheses Supported or Not
Specific level of focus

THEORY BUILDING INDUCTIVE & DEDUCTIVE



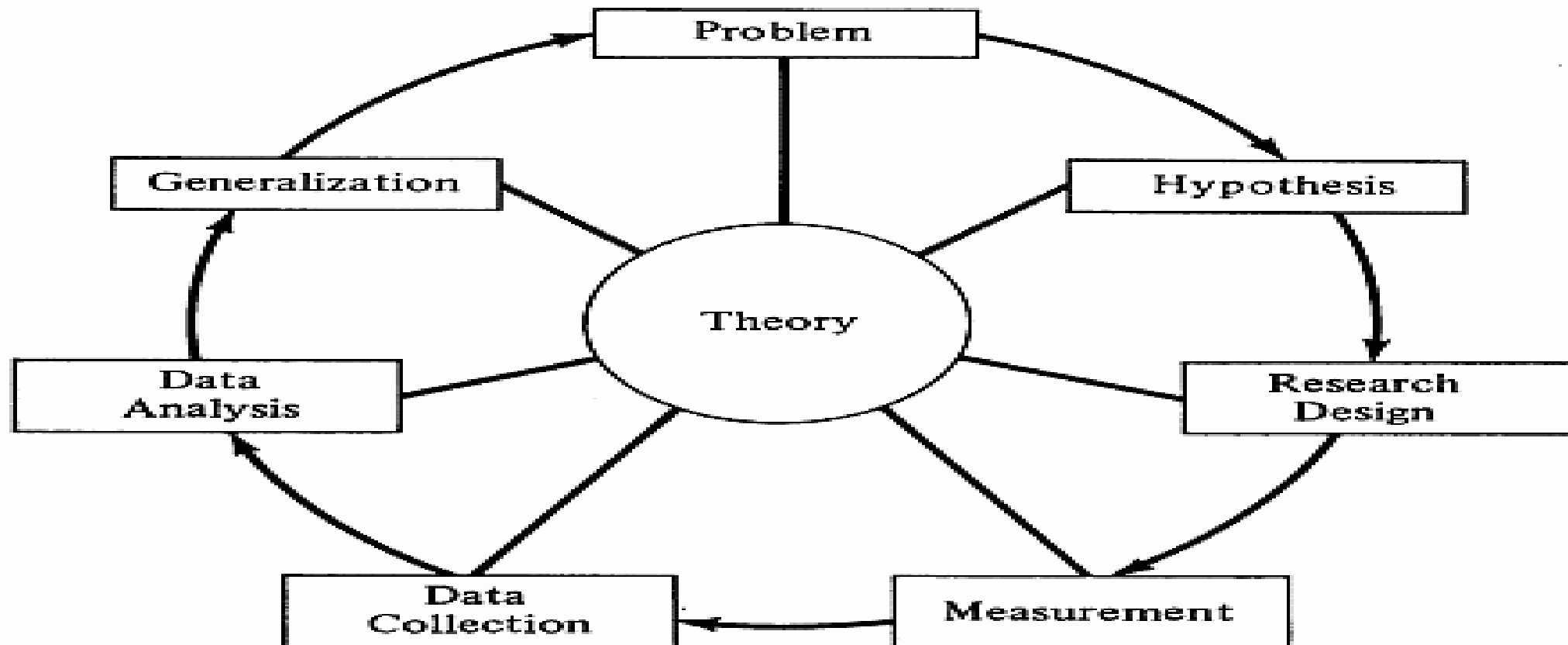
THEORY BUILDING

INDUCTIVE & DEDUCTIVE

https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DgctAuZGrdbQ&psig=AOvVaw0cnVOHoq4w7Hwhu_P469qk&ust=1599643464454000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAIQjRxqFwoTCKDagcGe2esCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAQ

ROLE OF THEORY IN SOCIAL RESEARCH

Figure 1.1
The Main Stages of the Research Process



ROLE OF RESEARCH IN THEORY

Emergence of concepts
& theory

Revision & modification
of existing theories

Operationalization of
concepts

INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THEORY AND RESEARCH

The Research Wheel

