

'Retroduction' (pub. 12.03.13-18:51). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-cambridge-lectures-reasoning-and-logic-things-types-reasoning-2>.

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**Term:** Retroduction

**Quote:** ... the second figure reads:

Anything of the nature of M would have the character {p}, taken haphazard,  
S has the character {p};

∴ Provisionally, we may suppose S to be of the nature of M.

Still more convenient is the following conditional form of statement:

If {m} were true, {p}, {p}', {p}'' would follow as miscellaneous consequences

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But {p}, {p}', {p}'' are in fact true;

∴ Provisionally, we may suppose that {m} is true.

This kind of reasoning is very often called *adopting a hypothesis for the sake of its explanation of known facts*.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1898). *Cambridge Lectures on Reasoning and the Logic of Things: Types of Reasoning*. MS [R] 441.

**References:** RLT 140

**Date of** 1898

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-cambridge-lectures-reasoning-and-logic-things-types-reasoning-2>