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Some observations on the use of analogies in teaching of undergraduate physics

We present a summary of work carried out principally as an undergraduate summer project in July –August 2020 to investigate the use of analogies in physics teaching in the undergraduate course at Imperial College London. As a background, we first compare and contrast methods for classification of analogies and provide literature review highlights relevant to practitioners of university level physics education. We follow this with a summary of a study done on the undergraduate course at Imperial involving scrutiny of physics course materials, surveys on the prevalence and efficacy of analogies with staff and students, and interviews with teaching staff. To summarise and conclude we provide advice, guidance and points for consideration for science communicators on best practice for use of analogies in their work.

Key words

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