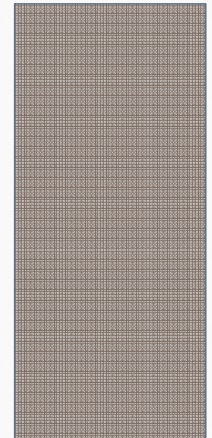


PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE & REALITY

WEEK 4: IMMATERIALISM, DUALISM,
& THE MIND-BODY PROBLEM



AGENDA

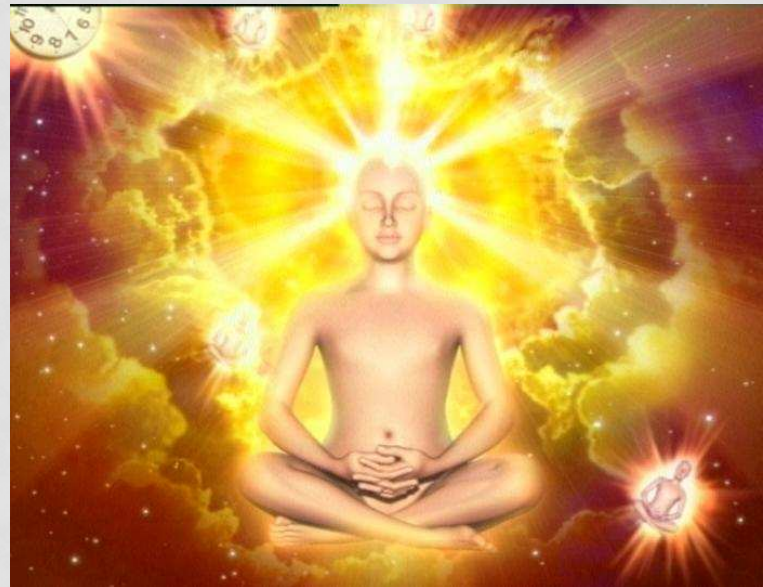
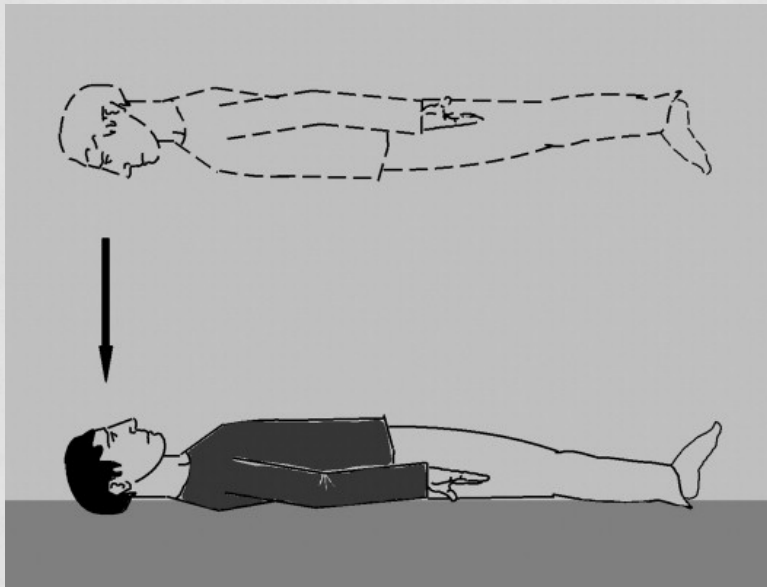
1. Quick Review
2. Arguments Against Materialism/Physicalism (continued)
3. The Mind-Body Problem
4. The Thirteenth Floor – film
5. Quiz #2

REVIEW

- Our main question from two weeks ago:
 - What makes me me over time?
- Answers:
 - Body Theory, Memory Theory, Psychological Continuity Theory, Ego Theory, Bundle/Illusion Theory, Soul Theory
- Our main question from last week:
 - But, when you think about this issue, what is doing the thinking? Is your brain doing the thinking, or are you using your brain to think?

INTUITIONS ABOUT THE SELF

- There's a sense that there is a me beyond my brain.



- Then the universe is comprised of material substance and mental substance (immaterial substance).
- Is this true?

SO WHAT'S REAL?

Materialists/Physicalists:

- Those who believe the only material substance exists.
- Ionian Naturalists, Atomists, Assumption of Science

Objections to Materialists:

- Plato, the spirituality inclined, or those who believe in life after death.
- Berkeley's Idealism

GEORGE BERKELEY: IDEALISM

How would you summarize the argument?

GEORGE BERKELEY: IDEALISM



- “esse est percipi”
To be is to be perceived

GEORGE BERKELEY: IDEALISM

- **Overheard in 18th century England:**

Did you hear that George Berkeley died?

His girlfriend stopped seeing him.



Bishop Berkeley
March 12, 1685 - January 14, 1753

OBJECTIONS TO MATERIALISM

- Berkeley's Idealism
- The Problem of Consciousness/Mind
- The Knowledge Arguments
 - Mary's House Argument
- What is matter?
 - Non-material

THE PROBLEM OF CONSCIOUSNESS

“Made out of Meat”

What's the story about?

It's about how/why does dirt (meat) have a mind?



THE PROBLEM OF CONSCIOUSNESS

- What is a mind?

MENTAL PROPERTIES OR STATES (PG 127)

Thought experiment:

- Imagine a universe that consists only of physical objects and physical properties but which lacks minds and mental properties. Make a list of those features of the world that would vanish if all minds were suddenly wiped out.

MENTAL PROPERTIES AND STATES (PG 127)

- Minds allow us to:
 - Perceive, smell, and feel the world
 - Feel emotions
 - Have self-awareness
 - Have dreams, hopes, and fantasies
 - Store and retrieve memories
 - Reason about the world
 - Communicate with others

CONSCIOUSNESS



EASY AND HARD PROBLEMS OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Distinction proposed by David Chalmers

The easy problems:

- How does consciousness work?
 - How do different brain states correlate to different mental states.
 - How does sensory input get turned into actions/reactions.

The hard problem:

- Why is our material processing accompanied by internal, felt sensations?
 - If we are made from inanimate material, why does this mound of inanimate material have conscious awareness? Why does it feel, desire, and have an internal subjective experience?
 - Couldn't it just have behaviors?



WHAT MAKES THE HARD PROBLEM
HARD?



QUALIA!

QUALIA

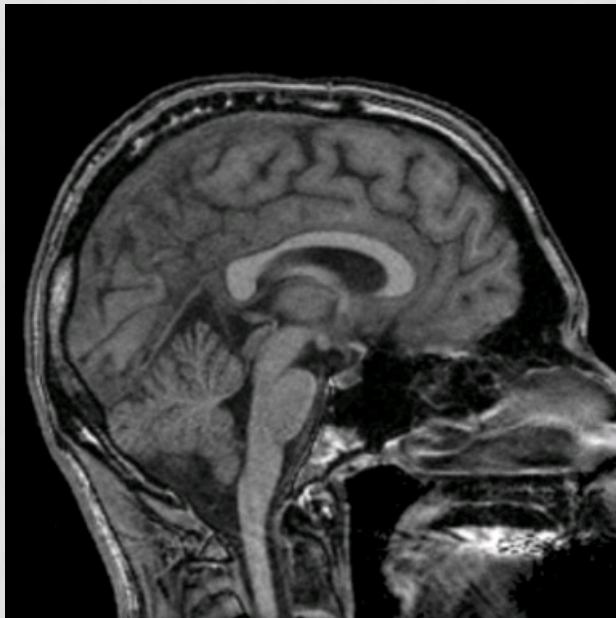
Definition:

Qualia are the subjective or qualitative properties of experiences. What it **feels** like from the **inside** to experience the world.

The Problem:

There seems to be more than just physical material. There is an *internal, subjective experience*: an awareness that may be influenced by the material world, but is itself non-physical by definition.

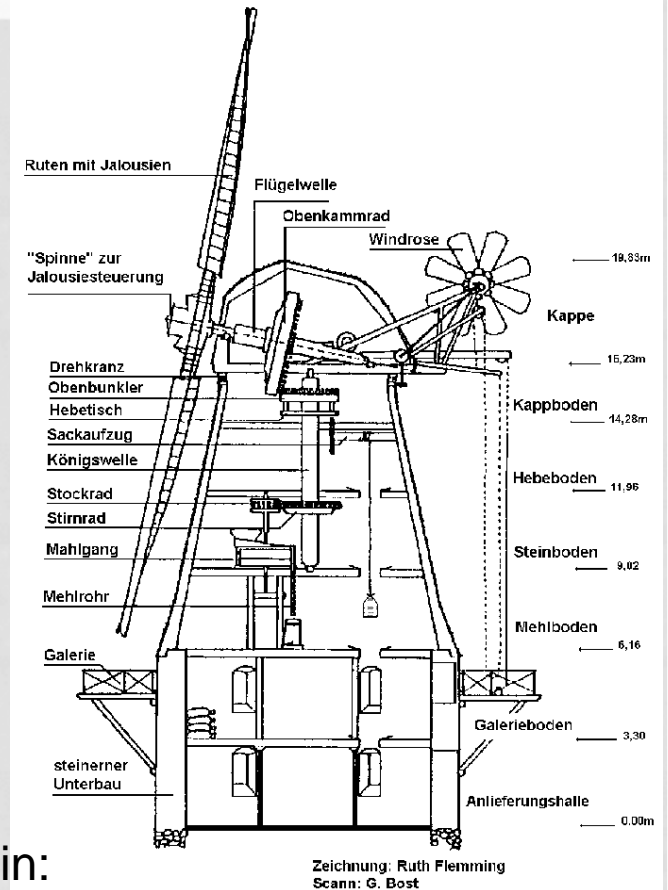
THE HEART OF THE MYSTERY: QUALIA



Leibniz (1646-1716)

No essential difference between a windmill and a brain:
Seeing all its inner mechanisms says nothing about the
associated subjective experience!

The subjective experience (qualia) **IS** non-physical.



THE QUALIA QUESTION

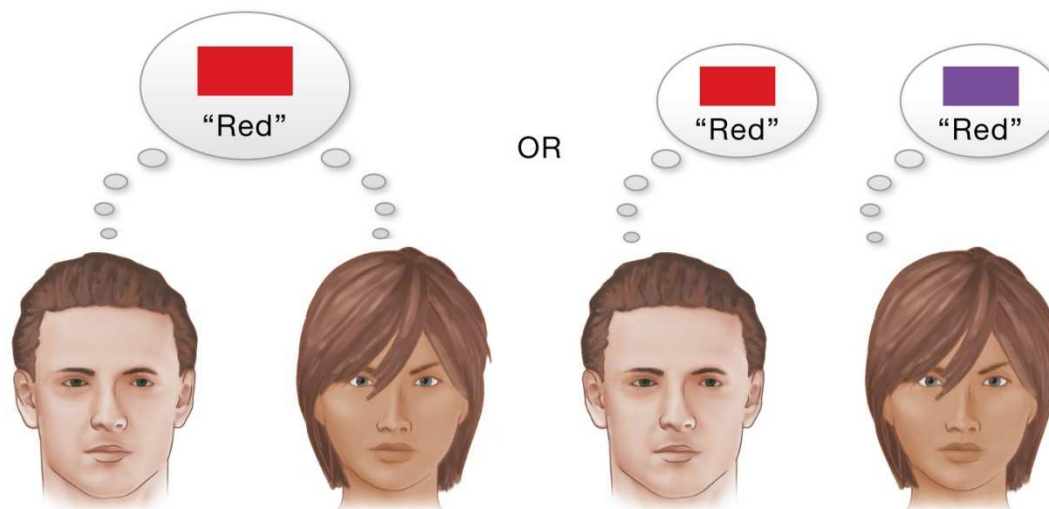
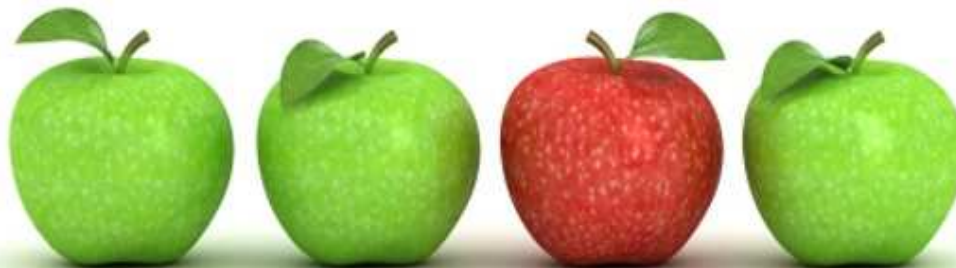


FIGURE 4.2 Qualia: Seeing Red

QUALIA: LOCK'S INVERTED SPECTRUM ARGUMENT



- Is it possible your “qualia” is different than someone else’s?
- Is it possible then, that you could conceivably wake up one day, the universe & you be physically the same, but your qualia be different?

QUALIA: LOCK'S INVERTED SPECTRUM ARGUMENT

Premises:

(P1) If something is possibly false, then it is not necessarily true.

(P2) It's conceivable that qualia can be different even with identical brain states.

(P3) What's conceivable is possible.

necessarily

(C1) Therefore, qualia is not identical with brain states.

(C2) Therefore, qualia is not physical.

What do you think of the argument?



HOW TO RESPOND TO PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS

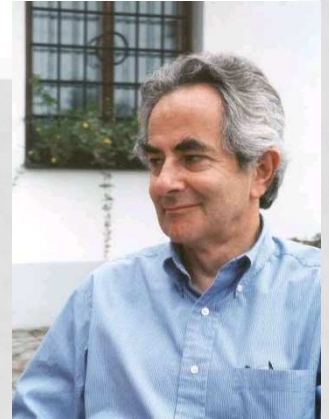
- Be sure to answer the question directly.
- Be sure to always have justifications all your claims.
- Avoid all statements of beliefs or opinion without justification.
- Use examples to illustrate your point or to demonstrate your understanding of the material.
- Be sure to demonstrate how well you understand the material!!!

OBJECTIONS TO MATERIALISM

- Do you think a materialistic view of the world can ever be used to explain consciousness and qualia?
- According to philosopher Thomas Nagel, no.

“WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A BAT?”

Thomas Nagel (1937-)
American Philosopher



In 1974, published one of the most famous papers in all of philosophy.

Summary:

We can never know what it feels like to be a bat.



SUMMARY OF THE PAPER

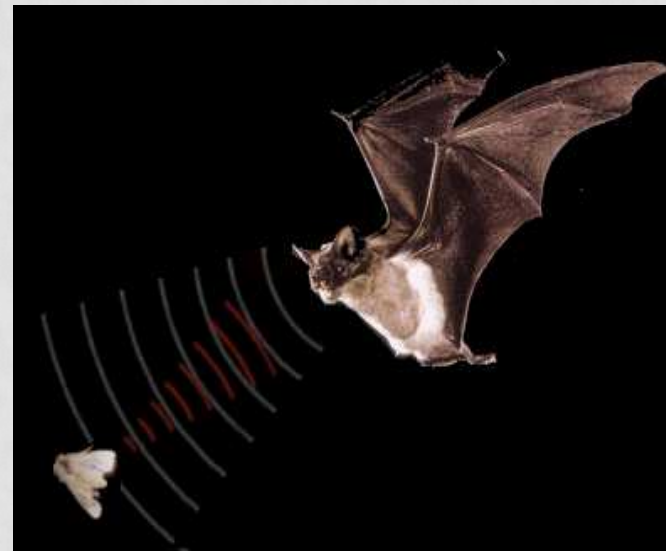
Bats are mammals. Most people agree they have experiences – they are conscious.

But, their consciousness is alien to us:

They “see” by sonar.

They fly and hang upside-down.

They lust for other bats.



We might be able to imagine what it would be like for us to live and behave like a bat.

But we can't imagine what it is like for a bat to be a bat.

SUMMARY OF THE PAPER

Bat's experience is **subjective**.

Consciousness = having a point of view (interiority)

Scientific knowledge is **objective**.

"The view from nowhere" (exteriority)

Example: lightning

- Subjective: looks like a flash of light
- objective: electrical discharge



Study of objective (material) science can never reveal the character of subjective experience.

OBJECTIONS TO MATERIALISM

- Berkeley's Idealism
- The Problem of Consciousness
 - Awareness rather than non-awareness
 - “Subjective” experience rather than nothing (Qualia)
- The Knowledge Arguments
 - Mary's House Argument
- What is matter?
 - Non-material

THE KNOWLEDGE ARGUMENT



What Mary Didn't Know
- Frank Jackson

THE CASE AGAINST MATERIALISM/PHYSICALISM

- To make the case against physicalism we need to show that...
 - An individual that knows all the physical facts about the universe might still be lacking knowledge of some facts about the universe.
- This would show that the physical facts are not all the facts there are.

MARY IN THE BLACK AND WHITE ROOM



WHAT MARY DOESN'T KNOW

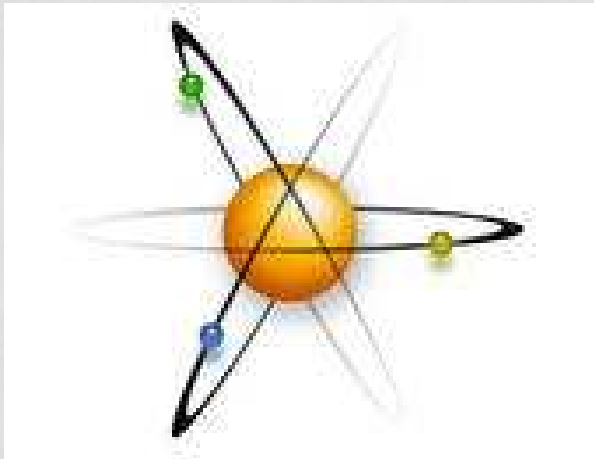
- *Mary is confined to a black-and-white room, is educated through black-and-white books and through lectures relayed on black and white television...She knows all the physical facts about us and our environment, in a wide sense of 'physical' which includes everything in completed physics, chemistry, and neurophysiology, and all there is to know about the causal and relational facts consequent upon all this, including of course functional roles.*
- ***If physicalism is true, she knows all there is to know.*** For to suppose otherwise, that there is more to know than every physical fact, and that is just what physicalism denies.

MARY GETS OUT!

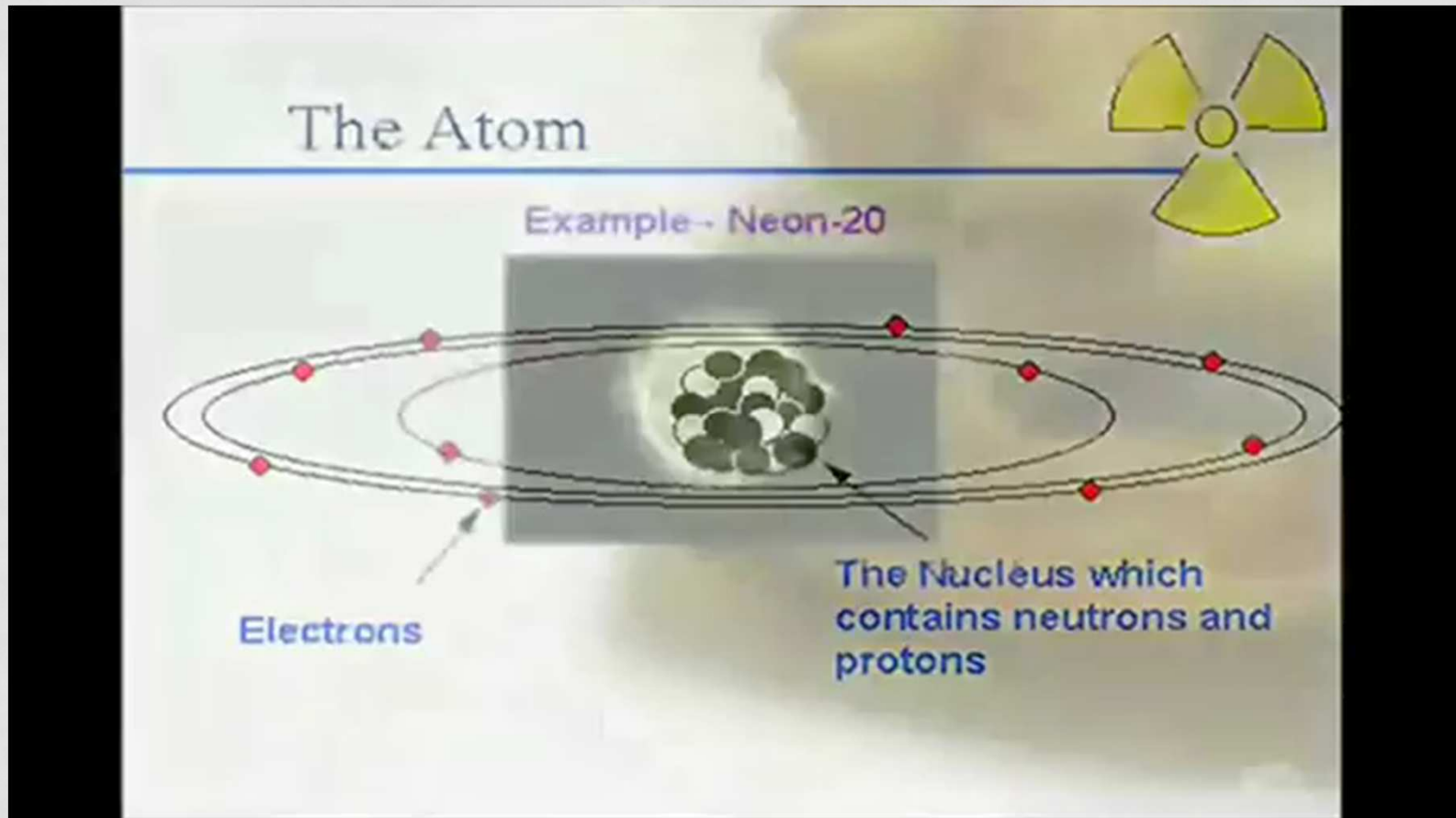
- *When Mary is released from her black and white room...It seems just obvious that she will learn something about the world and our visual experience of it.*
- *But then is it inescapable that her previous knowledge was incomplete.*
- *But she had all the physical information.*
- *Therefore, there is more to have than that, and Physicalism is false.*

OBJECTIONS TO MATERIALISM: PHYSICS?

- **Matter:** Something that takes up space and has mass.
- What is matter made up of?
 - Atoms

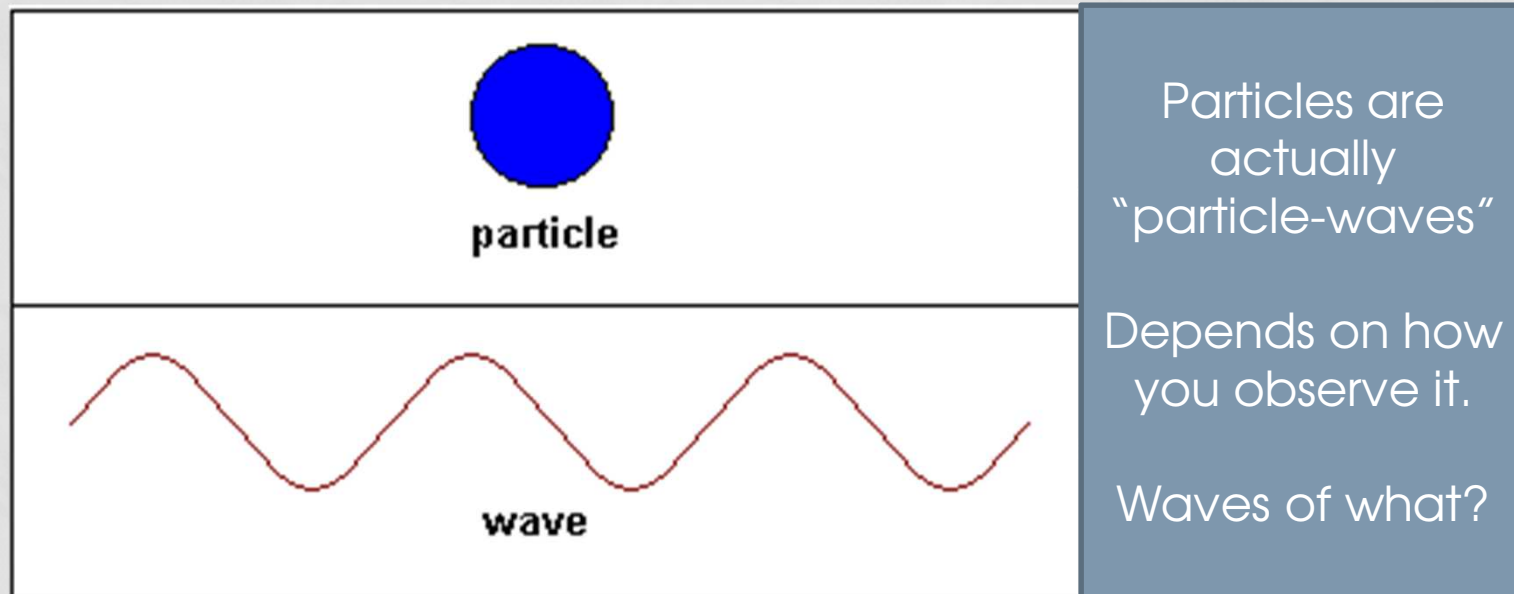


OBJECTIONS TO MATERIALISM: PHYSICS?



OBJECTIONS TO MATERIALISM: PHYSICS?

- So matter is mostly empty space, since atoms are mostly empty space.
- What are atoms made up of?



How to imagine the wave-particle duality.

OBJECTIONS TO MATERIALISM: PHYSICS?

- So matter is mostly empty space, since atoms are mostly empty space.
- And the parts that aren't empty are “waves of probability.”

OBJECTIONS TO MATERIALISM: SUMMARY

- Berkeley's Idealism
- The Problem of Consciousness/Mind
 - Hard Problem of Consciousness
 - Inverted Qualia Argument
 - Subjective Experience – What is it like to be a Bat.
- The Knowledge Arguments
 - Mary's House Argument
- What is matter?
 - Non-material

We will look at materialist counter arguments next week.

SO WHAT'S REAL?

Metaphysical Views of Reality

1. *Materialism:*

- *So maybe there is just material substance.*

2. *Idealism:*

- *So maybe there is just immaterial substance.*

3. *Dualism:*

- *Or maybe there is both.*

.

SO WHAT ARE YOU?

If you are like Descartes you...

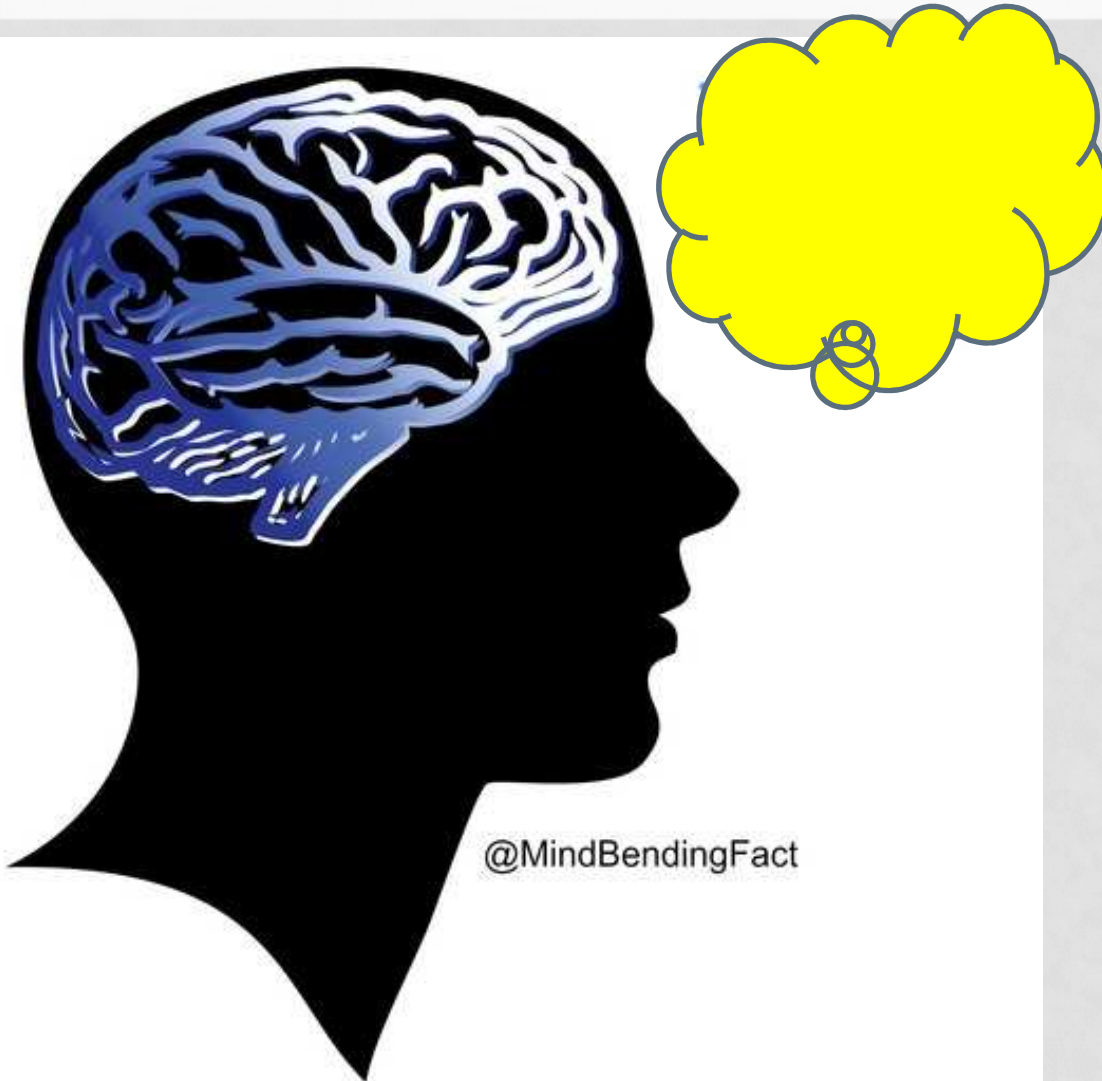
- Believe you have a material body.
- AND you believe you have an immaterial mind.

So, there exists two different “substances” in the universe.

Hence Descartes’ view is called **substance dualism**.

But this leads to a pretty big problem...

THE MIND-BODY PROBLEM



@MindBendingFact

What's the problem?

- How does something non-physical cause changes in a physical body?
- How are the two related?

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE MIND-BODY PROBLEM

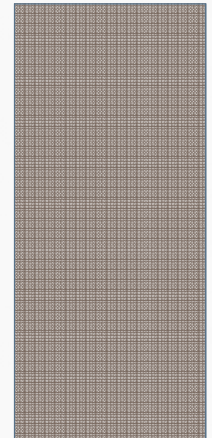
- Metaphysical views of reality
 - Materialism: only matter exists
 - Dualism: both mind and matter exists
 - Idealism: only mind exists
- **Possible Solutions:**
 - Physicalism / Materialism
 - Substance Dualism
 - Idealism

READ FOR NEXT WEEK

- Chapter 6 up to page 139
- Read Chalmers Simulation Dualism Argument

PHILOSOPHY OF KNOWLEDGE & REALITY

WEEK 4_ DAY2: DUALISM,
& THE MIND-BODY PROBLEM



AGENDA

1. Quick Review of the Mind-Body Problem
2. Substance Dualism
3. The Thirteenth Floor – film

OBJECTIONS TO MATERIALISM: SUMMARY

- Berkeley's Idealism
- The Problem of Consciousness/Mind
- Qualia (Subjective Experience)
- What is matter?

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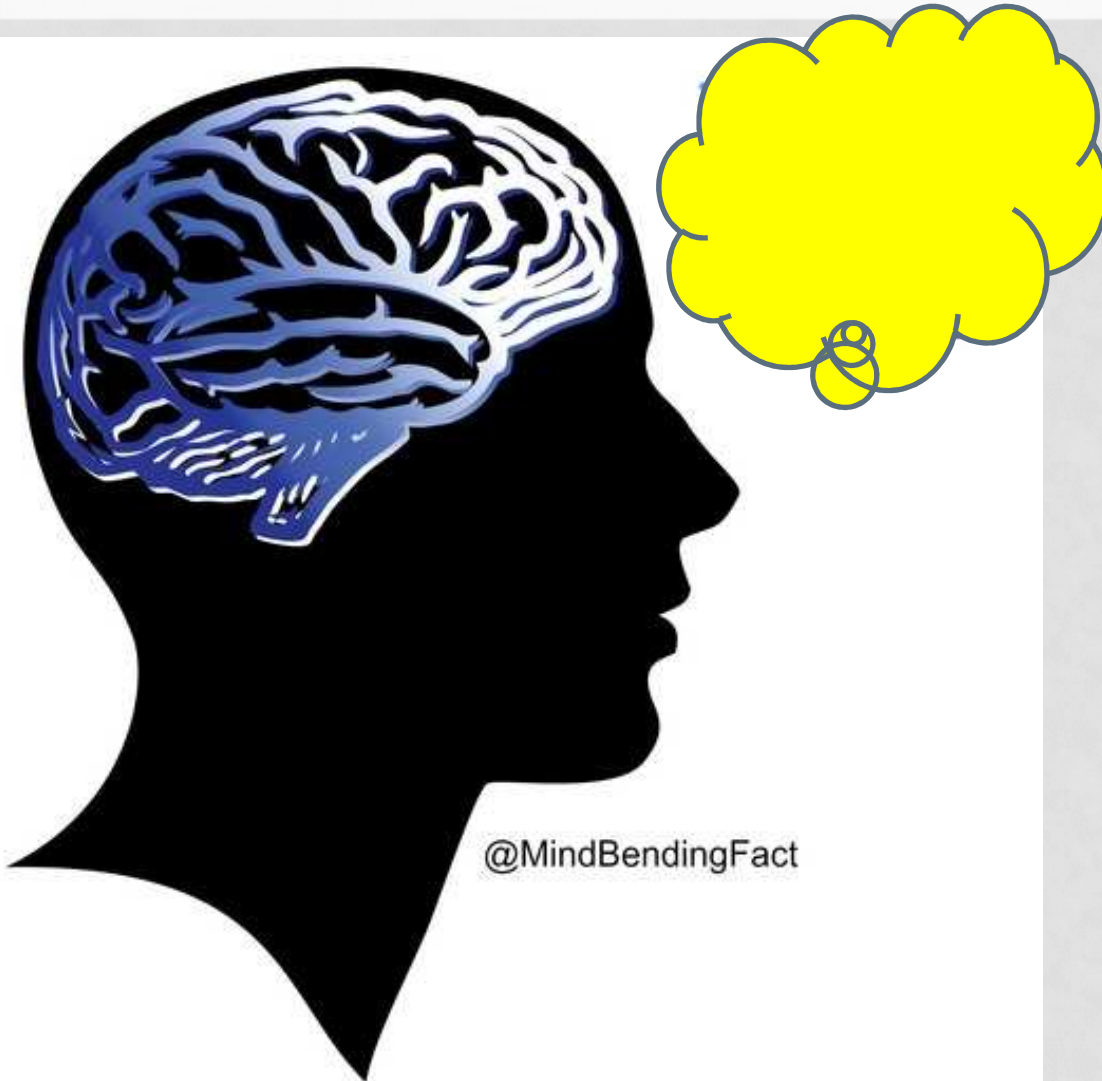
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- **Possible Solutions:**
 - Substance Dualism
 - Physicalism / Materialism
 - Idealism

(SUBSTANCE) DUALISM

- Mental states and physical states are equally real and **ontologically** independent.
 - Ontologically independent: one thing doesn't depend on another other thing for it's existence.
- Why do people believe this?
 - Intuitive for many.
 - Fits with beliefs in an afterlife, or soul.
 - Logically believable?
 - Near death (out of body) experiences
 - Conceivability argument
 - Intention argument

ARGUMENTS FOR DUALISM:

1. NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCES (PG 132)

Main Argument:

P1. If substance dualism is false, then minds cannot exist independently from bodies.

P2. But minds can exist independently from bodies.

C1. Therefore, substance dualism is true.

Support of the second premise:

P1. Hundreds of people report having experiences while being outside their bodies.

P2. The best explanation for these reports is that minds can exist independently from bodies.

C1. Therefore, minds can exist independently from bodies.

Objections?

ARGUMENTS FOR DUALISM:

1. NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCES (PG 132)

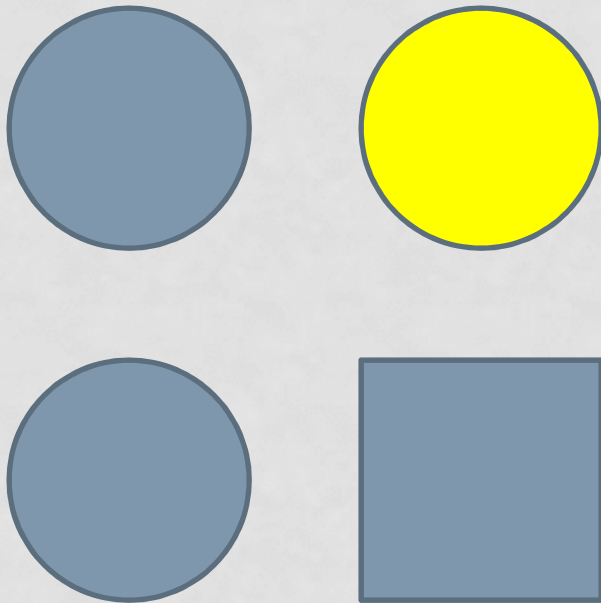
Objections:

Rational explanations for Near Death / Out of Body Experiences

ARGUMENTS FOR DUALISM: 2. CONCEIVABILITY ARGUMENT (PG 134)

We first need to understand the **Leibniz's Law**:

- *A & B are identical to each other only if they have all properties in common.*



So, if at least ONE property is different, A & B are NOT identical.

ARGUMENTS FOR DUALISM: 2. CONCEIVABILITY ARGUMENT (PG 134)

P1. I can conceive that I exist without a body.

P2. I cannot conceive that I exist without a mind.

C1. My mind is more intimately connected to me than my body is. (so now the mind has one property that is different than my body – “being intimately connected to me”)

C2. But since my mind has at least one property that is different from my body, then my mind cannot be identical to my body (Leibniz Law)

ARGUMENTS FOR DUALISM:

2. CONCEIVABILITY ARGUMENT (PG 135)

Objections:

1. Can you really conceive of existing without a body? (no senses, no experiences, no movement)
2. Just because you conceive (imagine, believe) a property that is different doesn't mean that it really exists.

For example...

ARGUMENTS FOR DUALISM: 2. CONCEIVABILITY ARGUMENT (PG 135)

P1. I can conceive (imagine, believe) that Clark Kent is an ordinary human being.

P2. I cannot conceive that Superman is an ordinary human being.

C1. So, Clark Kent has a property that Superman lacks.

C2. Therefore, by Leibniz's law, Clark Kent is not the same person as Superman.

ARGUMENTS FOR DUALISM:

3. CONCEIVABILITY ARGUMENT – 2ND TRY (PG 136)

Intentionality

*The mind's ability to be about something.
(Has nothing to do with "intention.")*

*Remember, looking for at least one property that is different.

Bodies ARE things:

- brain, hands, arms, legs, etc...

Mental states are ABOUT things:

- feelings, thoughts, memories are ABOUT things.

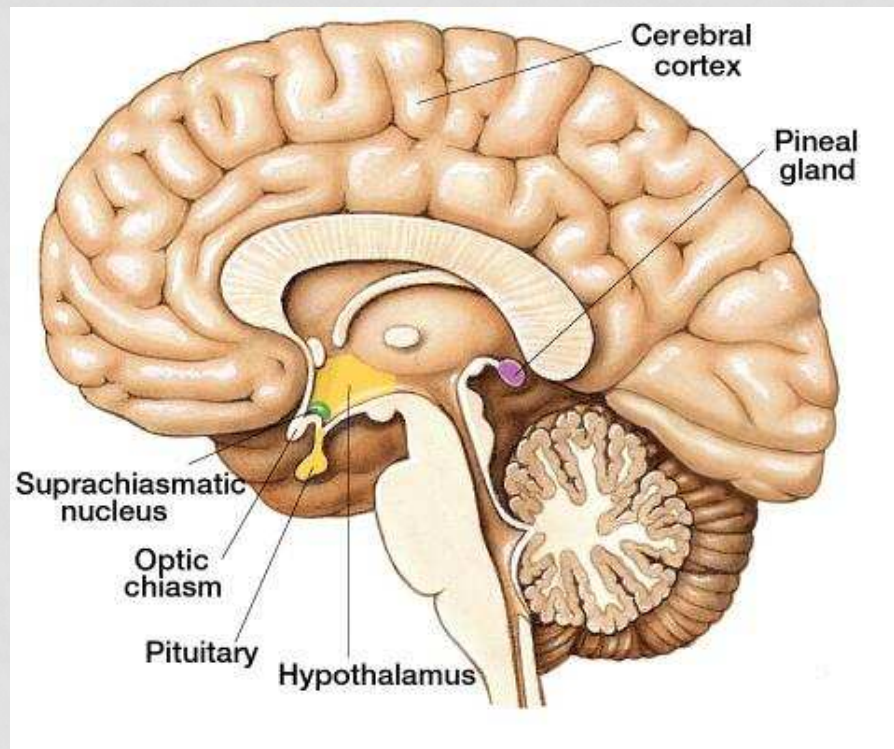
ARGUMENTS AGAINST DUALISM: PROBLEM OF INTERACTIONISM

How do minds and bodies interact?

DUALIST RESPONSES: #1 – DESCARTES PINEAL GLAND

Descartes:

The mind affects the brain at the pineal gland in the brain.



DUALIST RESPONSES:

#2 – PARALLELISM

The mind and body are two separate things and do not causally interact with each other.

Mental processes and physical processes run **parallel** to each other.

Just happen to happen at the same time:

Ouch!



I'm hungry!



DUALIST RESPONSES: #3 – OCCASSIONALISM

But how do they both **JUST** happen to happen at the same time?

Ouch!



I'm hungry!



God makes it so!

FILM

- First few minutes...

CHAMBERS SIMULATION ARGUMENT

In groups:

What is Chambers saying in the reading. How does Chambers argue for substance dualism?

HOMework

For full credit you needed to...

1. Address each part of the question.
2. Demonstrate a full understanding of the material by providing definitions, examples, etc..
3. Always provide reasons for a claim (through an argument, evidence, example).
 - Never say "I believe", "I think", "I feel" without providing reasons.

HW #2

- In the film, *Thirteenth Floor*, a company has created a large simulation of old Los Angeles. The simulation is so detailed and complex, that the simulated people act real and believe they are real.
- Question: If we did live in a simulation, how could this be used to explain the convictions of idealists, dualists, and materialists? If we lived in a simulation, how could we ever know?