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Week 4

Part I

Lesson 1

Dr. Susan Lavelle.

Descartes' Substance Dualism Theory of Mind

(We can't answer most of the questions in this section).

Philosophers often talk about the mind using the metaphor of the computer.

What is it to have mind?

- look at something which doesn't have the quality like a tennis ball.
- Tennis balls: don't have an interesting existence
- Dogs: eat food, warm, belly rubs
- Humans: get out of bed, breakfast, warmth shelter

But you're also different from the dog

Humans can evaluate their own thoughts

Not liking someone at a party
have a thought about his machinism
then have a thought about a thought like that seems prejudiced.

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Humans can think about things, makes plans for the future think about states that don't exist, have a 5-legged fire breathing unicorn even though they don't exist it doesn't preclude you thinking about it

[Thinking about the non-existent such a thought cannot be manufactured

How do you capture the aboutness of a thought?

Humans have conscious awareness. Philosophers call this the "what it is like". You know what it's like to salivate looking at food/breakfast as a distinctive awareness of the smell that you can experience.

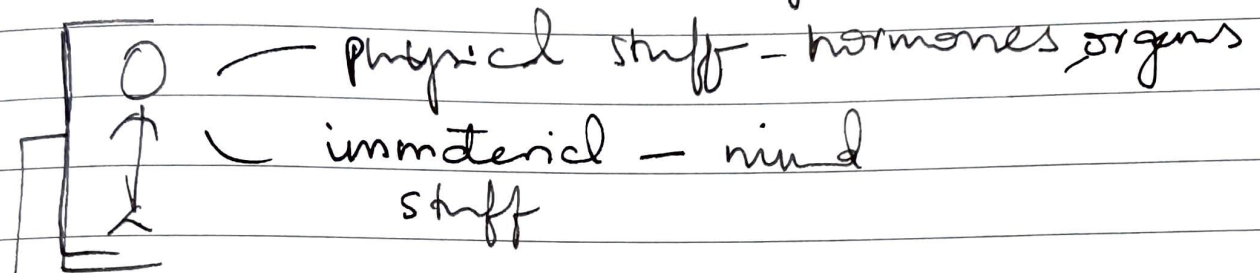
What it is like characterizing a particular experience

It's not like animals don't have this but it's a distinctive quality of humans.

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René Descartes (1596 - 1650)

Minds were different from the physical bodies. Some kind of immaterial subst. different from objects that couldn't be studied by science.



This view is called subst. dualism.
or Cartesian dualism.

There are arguments against Descartes view that now mind & body is made of different things (supplementary material).

The problem of causation

- by Elisabeth of Bohemia, 1643
Descartes' Pupil

How does the immaterial subst. affect changes in the physical body. In order to move physical things other physical things are required. An obj needs some impetus from another obj to start

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its journey. And humans are the same ~~how~~ to change our physical state.

How can thoughts interact with a physical body so as to effect changes in the world?

If you know the answer to a test, you raise your hand.

Physicalism: Identity Theory & Functionalism

Physicalism: Mind and body are made of the same thing (thoughts are just chemicals, hormones etc).

Physicalism can be viewed in 3 ways:

- logical Behaviourism (hardcore)
- Identity Theory
- Functionalism

Identity Theory

The thought of going to Paris next week is identical to a particular physical state in the mind & body that accommodate all the molecular changes that are going on. This is the physical realisation of the

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thought of going to Paris next week.

Physicalism says if you have 2 objects that are same down to the physical level then those two organisms are in the same psychological state.

Physically indiscernible → psychologically indiscernible.

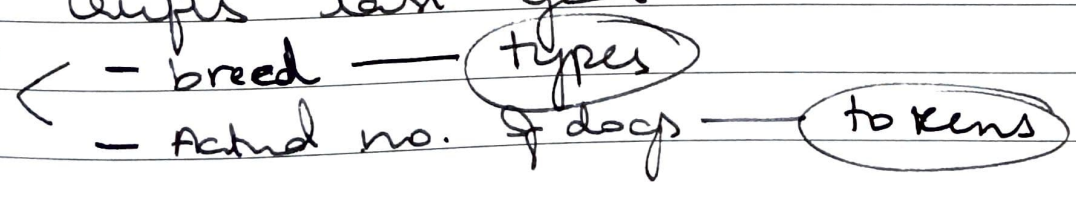
Identity Theory is also the Reductionist Theory. It reduces psychological thoughts to physical

Brain states are identical to mental states.

An identity theorist makes the following claims:

- Q: How many dogs were there in Crufts last year?

2 ways to think



A Type Relation

Explain whether we need token identity & type identity

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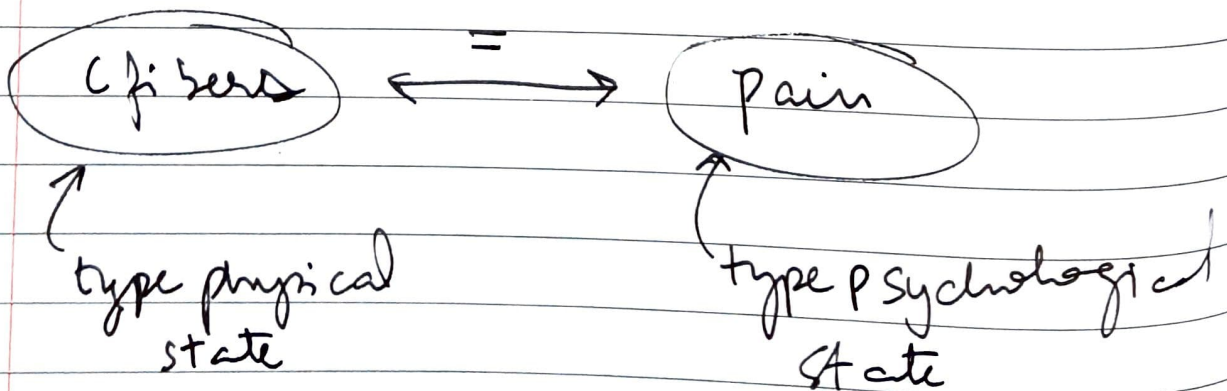
Token identity: For every psychological state in the human being there is a corresponding state for it

Pain in your stomach at 2am
↳ identical to a
↳ physical state.
↳ pain

Type identity: particular types of psychological states (pain) are identical with particular types of physical states

Neural realization of could be C-fibers firing

So when in all human beings the C-fibers are stimulated, they are in pain.



You can find out more about pain

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in a generalized way by looking at neural realizers.
For a type - type identity theorist Cartesian dualism is false. Two ~~mental~~ creatures in the same mental state must also be in the same type of brain state.

Identity theory seems plausible to science however, iconic philosopher Hilary Putnam in 1967 pointed out some problems in Identity theory.
It's too chauvinistic & narrow

If you were to meet aliens and their brain structure isn't comparable to us at all. They feel pain. You would say their pain is identical to a brain state, but a brain state that's totally different from humans.

This makes us think about how we should think about psychological states & their physical realizers. Is it within a particular human being / within a species or do we want to make a more universal claim.

Putnam says we need to define that psychological / physical state relation even more.

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Putnam says maybe we're looking in the wrong place. Maybe it's wrong to look at brain structures to try & work out what particular psychological states are as brain structures vary dramatically across species.

Plants also feel pain

L. Ron Hubbard

Are plants conscious?

(Oh, Hubbard was into Scientology though).

Putnam says when looking at a psychological state we should look at what they do and not what they are made of.

↳ This view is functionalism.

Hilary Putnam: Multiple Realizability (1967)

An octopus might be in the same type of mental state as me but in a very different type of brain state.

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Functionalism & What Mental States Do

Imagine a country where you pay in shells. Shells function just like money. Or a place where you trade in a livestock.

livestock, shells, money → share a function like being traded for goods & services and values that fluctuate on market forces.

Different pictures of chairs look like them as they function like them.

You shouldn't identify things with what they are made of. They can be made of totally different things. Instead look at what they do (function).

Putnam suggested this for psychological states. Instead of thinking about the chemicals, hormones, you have thinking about pain instead think about what that psychological state does & how it functions.
like

pain → makes us wince.

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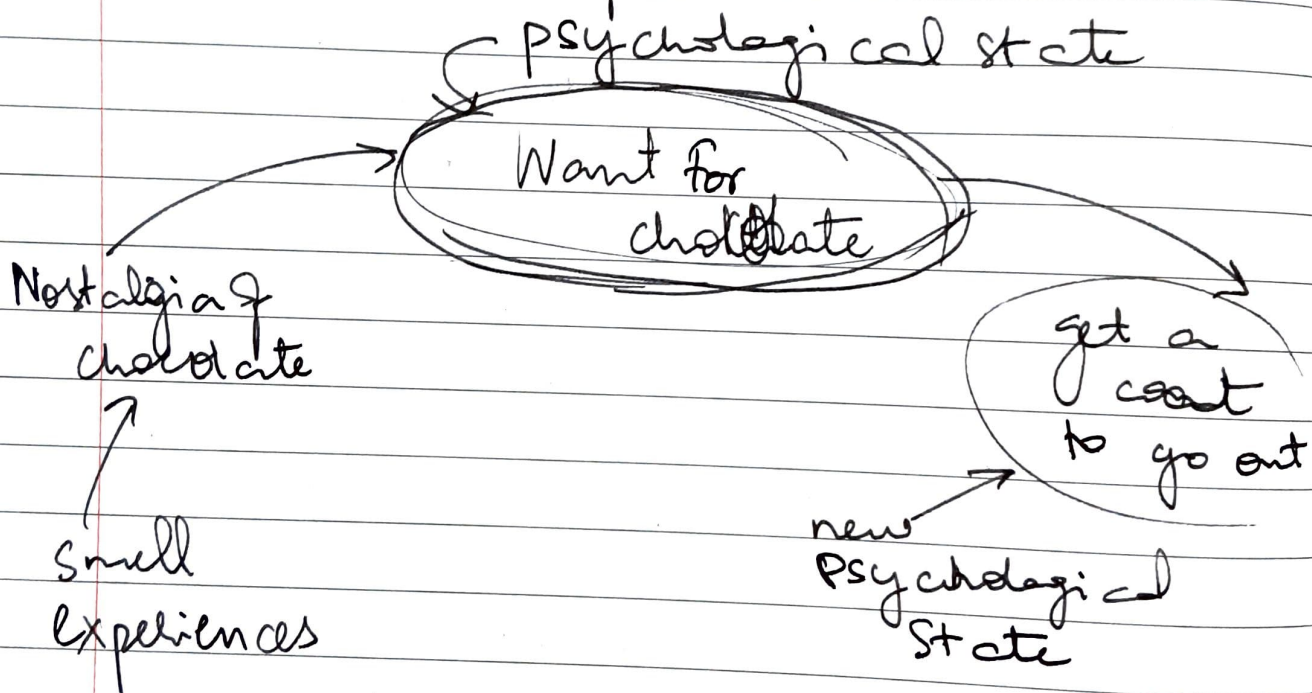
Then only we can ~~state~~ show pain is realized in different species.

Functionalism

↳ We should tell mental states apart ~~Not~~ by what they're but what they do.

Mental states

↳ Cause particular behaviours.



Understand the types & behaviours psychological states cause.

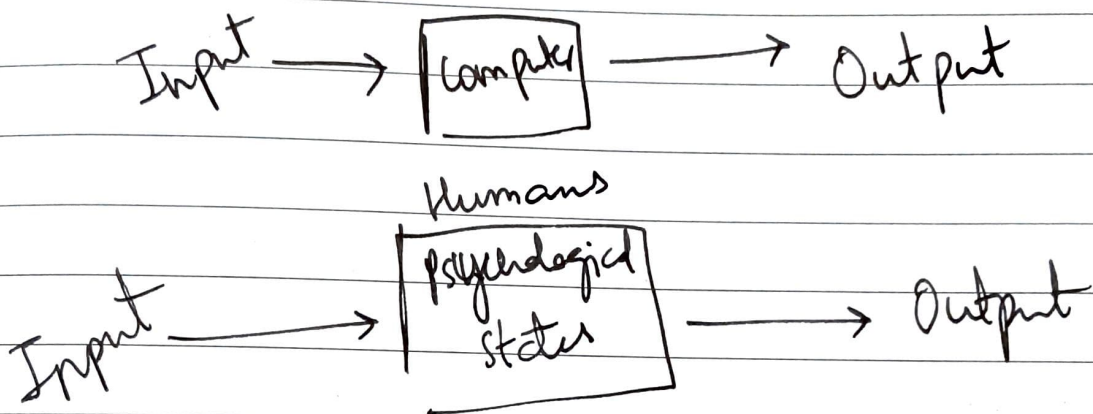
& the sensory inputs & perceptions

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It's how you function that tells you you're in that state.

Lesson 2

Functionalism & Functional complexity



In humans the functional role is sufficiently complex.

Minds vs. Machines: The Turing Test & The Chinese Room

Aman Turing thought about whether machines can think.

The better question:
Can a machine be mistaken for a person.

Turing's thought experiment:
Imagine you're in a room and facing

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a barrier and behind that there's computer & a human and you ask them questions and then work out which is human or not.

When you build a machine you can't tell apart from human then you've built one with the mentality of a human with the appropriate functional complexity.

Problems with Turing Test

1) It's language based.
• we can't test animal intelligence.

2) It's too anthropocentric.
It's naive to think that only human intelligence is worth learning of

3) It doesn't take into the inner workings of the machine

$$\begin{aligned} 2 + 8 &\rightarrow 10 + 1000 \\ &\rightarrow 1010 \end{aligned}$$

② Humans just add.

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Machines could just have a huge database with all the right answers

John Searle: The Chinese Room

No understanding involved in thinking.
(watch video for explanation)

Question of Aboutness of thoughts.

syntactic Properties



computers

Semantic Properties



Minds

The syntactic properties of a symbol pertain to its form whereas the semantic properties pertain to meaning or content.

Minds vs. Machines: Problems for the computational view of the mind

- Aboutness of thought
- Consciousness
 - ↳ Human chemical mix is conscious.
- Start to think of mind's other than the computational metaphor because it restrains us.

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The bearing of the hard problem of consciousness on functionalism is providing a functional analysis of something doesn't explain why it has conscious experience.

Whetted your appetite

Further Discussion

- Intentionality (aboutness).

◦ phil, psych, cognitive ethology

Do animals have minds?

View 1) No, because they don't have language so they don't have thoughts.

View 2) Cognitive science based philosophers don't think it's fair. Peter Carruthers (written a lot of books) (pirated most of them) (probably won't read them). Because we have a human anthropocentric viewpoint.

Turing Machine: At what stage humans are willing to attribute conscious ~~states~~ states to other things.

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Developmental perspectives

At what point do infants think of other humans as conscious beings able to have their own experiences. Different views of the world & their own perspective.

- Piaget's mountain drawing perspective
- Spotlight ~~theory~~ effect
- Ego centric Bias
- Ego centricism.

How do we attribute consciousness?
Whether that's a good way?

Metaphysical Ques

Does this have consciousness regardless of our human intuition about it?
What are those behavioural cues?

Methodological Ques

How do we measure consciousness?