

# Homework 6

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## 1. Philosophy of science

**a)** Scientific anti-realism [1] is basically a general word for all unobservable entities which are claimed to be un-real. One example of this would be electrons or gene sequences as they are said to be there but can not be observed by our human eyes [2].

**b)** Even if Popper's statement is true, science is still very meaningful. If a theory is falsifiable [3] it does not mean that it has provided us with no knowledge, it just means that we have covered that theory of science. Moreover, if a scientific theory is believed to be true it helps us shape a reality as close to the "considered" truth as possible. One example of this would be god being falsifiable, we can not know for sure if god does exist or not but the theory provides us with some form of meaning in life (at least for a lot of people) rendering scientific theories meaningful to say the least. The theories help us find some sort of relation to the world we live in, even if we can not always be certain that they are true.

## 2. Consciousness

### My opinion on the Chinese Room argument

I really do agree with Searle here [4, 5], it is hard to believe that a person (a system) would learn Chinese just from manipulating the procedure to pass a test. I believe the same applies for using a preset on a calculator, you do not need to understand what the calculator actually does with the data you put into the preset, it just spits out an output and you suppose it is correct as it yields the correct answer to the problem at hand. To put it shortly; being able to put numbers into a calculator (which then solves a hardcore formula) does not make me a mathematician. It is the calculator (the program) that does all the work, not me (the system). In the same sense, being able to manipulate an output using a set of instructions (the program) does not make me (the system) a Chinese speaker either [5].

## References

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