

Time

“Time is very slow for those who wait  
Very fast for those who are scared  
very long for those who lament  
Very short for those who celebrate  
But for those who love time is eternal”

William Shakespeare

What is time?

# Fatalism

- There are propositions about EVERYTHING that may happen in the future.
- Every proposition is binary (true|false)
- if so, there exists now a set of true propositions that predict the future
- if so, then whatever will happen in the future is unavoidable
- therefore: whatever will happen in the future is already unavoidable

# Reductionism vs. Platoism with Respect to Time

- Reductionism
  - Time only exists when contrasted with things moving in it
- Platoism
  - Time is a container that exists even when empty
  - You may or may not place things in it.

# J.M.E. McTaggart

- “The Unreality of Time”
- There is no such thing as time.
- “A” series vs. “B” series

# “A” Series

- Time is ordered by possession of properties
- being 2 days future
- being present
- being 1 day past

# “B” Series

- Ordered by 2 place relationships
- 2 days earlier than
- 1 day earlier than
- simultaneous with
- 2 days from then



# A/B Series Conclusions

- The B series does not make a proper time series
- The B series without the A does not create “change”
- The A series is paradoxical
- Different A properties are incompatible but must possess all of the different A properties
- Time in the future will be present and past

Time is as real as Space.  
Time does not flow.

# Reactions to McTaggart

- Presentism
  - Only the present is true
  - Past/Future are false
- Eternalism - Block Universe Theory
  - Everything exists all at once
- Growing Universe Theory
  - past and present exist and are constantly expanding due to the front loading of past

“We all pay for life with death, so everything in between should be free.”

Bill Hicks

*“If the block universe view is correct, it is irrational to fear death. We apparently fear death because we believe that we will no longer exist after we die. But according to the block universe view, it’s not true to say that we exist now, but won’t exist any longer after death. Death is just one of our temporal borders, and should be no more worrisome than birth!”*

Cheryl Chen  
Department of Philosophy at Harvard

“The past, present and future are only illusions, even if stubborn ones.”

Albert Einstein

If time is an illusion,  
can it be escaped?

## Time in 3 Acts

Past      Present      Future



“Once you discover one simple fact; and that is everything around you that you call life was made up by people that were no smarter than you. And you can change it, you can influence it, you can build your own things that other people can use. Once you learn that, you’ll never be the same again.”

Steve Jobs

# Challenge Perception

- We perceive time accelerate as we age.
- The mind can be tricked/trained
  - hallucinogenics, deep meditation
- Honor time as temporal instead of spatial

"Today a young man on acid realized that all matter is merely energy condensed to a slow vibration, that we are all one consciousness experiencing itself subjectively, there is no such thing as death, life is only a dream, and we are the imagination of ourselves."

Bill Hicks

Time in Software

“Every plan is a tiny  
prayer to Father Time”

Ben Gibbard

# Time in Software

- Estimation of time to complete work
- Shipping dates
- Working hours and expectations based on future temporal events
- Correlation of perception of time in relation to events with disparate minds

“If you wish to make an apple pie from scratch  
you must first invent the universe.”

Carl Sagan

# Reality

- Focus on constructing a common reality
- Pay reverence to that which can be quantified
- Honor time as B-Series events (as related to other temporal events)
- Constantly “check-in” with all team members on what constitutes this reality



# thanks!

about.me/leongersing  
@rubybuddha