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Week 4

Part I

Lesson 1 Dr. Suelin 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 instance
- 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 mannerisms
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, having a 5-legged fire breathing unicorn although they don't exist it doesn't preclude you thinking about it

Thinking about the non-existent such a thought cannot be manifested

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

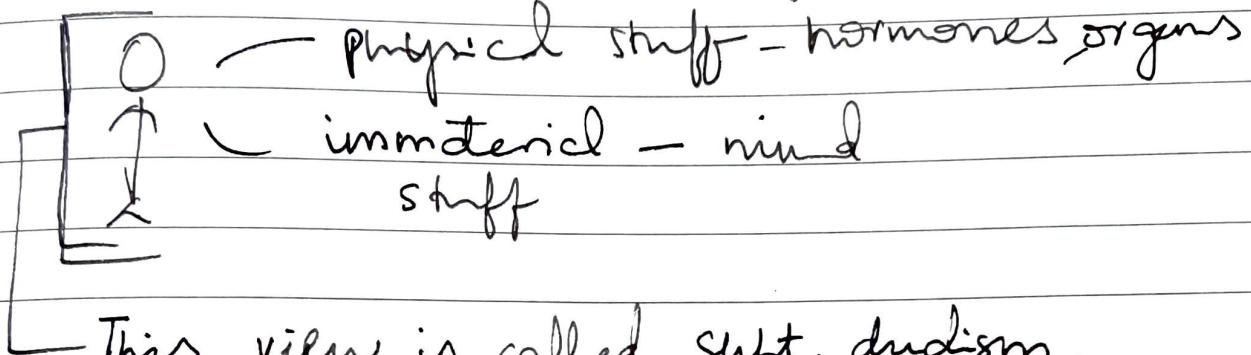
characterizing a particular experience

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 how mind & body is made of different things (supplementary material).

The problem of causation
= by Elizabeth 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 thoughts are the same too 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 Behaviorism (haven't)
- 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

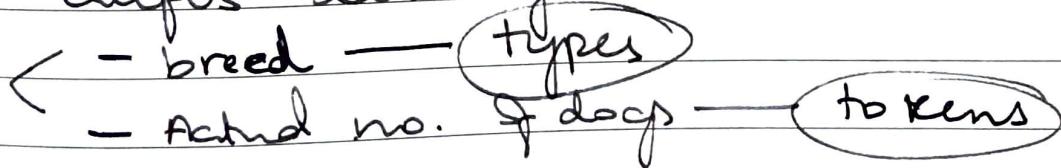
Brain states are identical to mental states.

An identity theorist makes the following claims:

- Q: How many dogs were there in

Cerupts last year?

2 ways
to think



A Type Relation

Explain whether we need token identity or type identity

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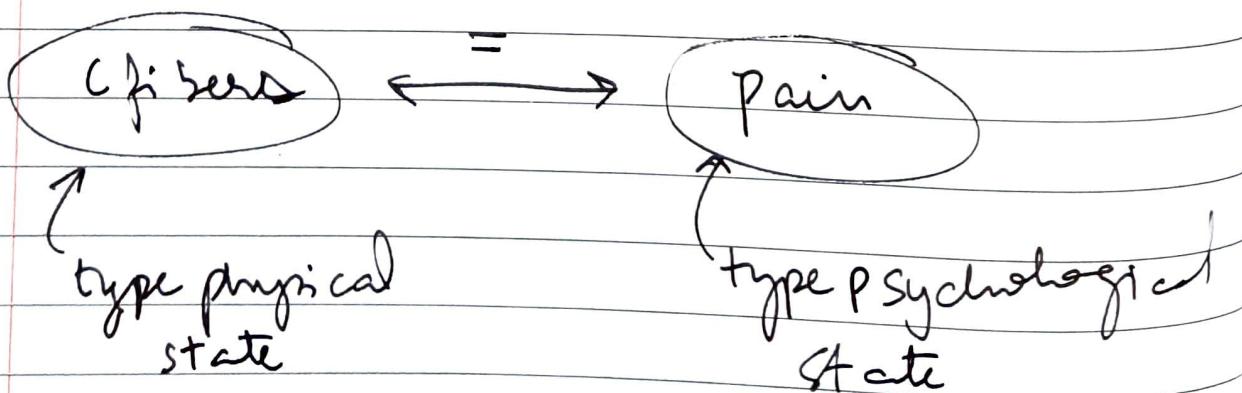
Token identity: For every psychological state in the human being there is a corresponding state for it

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-fibres firing

So when in all human beings the c-fibres 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 ~~mentat~~ creatures in the same mental state must also be in the same type of brain state.

Identity theory however seems plausible to science. 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 the 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 structs 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 Realities (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's instead think about what that psychological state does & how it functions like

Pain → makes us wince.

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Then only we can ~~see~~ know how pain is realized in different species.

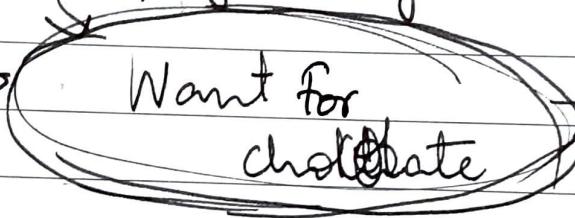
Functionalism

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

Mental states

→ Cause particular behaviours.

Psychological state



Nostalgia &
chocolate

Small
experiences

get a
coat
to go out

new
Psychological
State

Understand the
types & behaviours psychological states
cause.

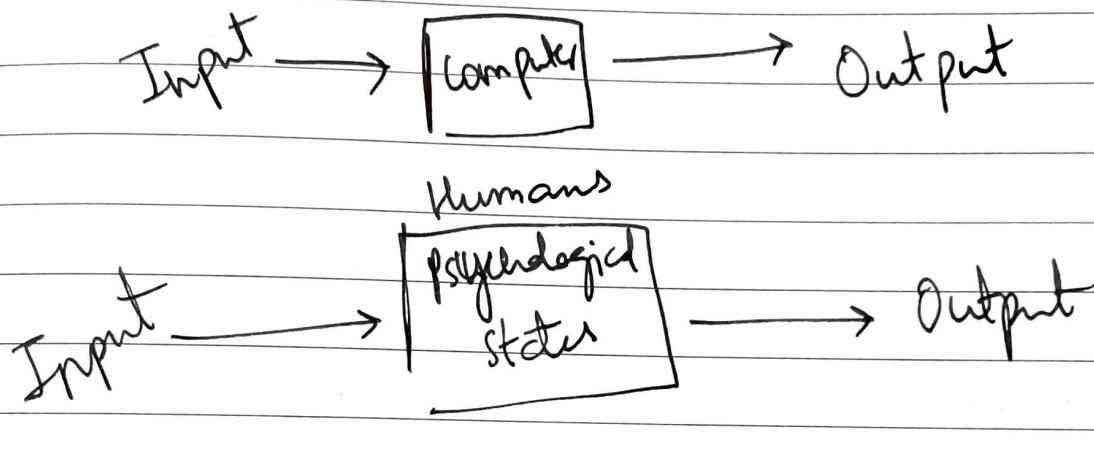
& the sensory inputs & perceptions

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

Lesson 2

Function alism & Functional complexity



In humans the functional role is sufficiently complex.

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

Then thinking 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 ballill 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 them 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.

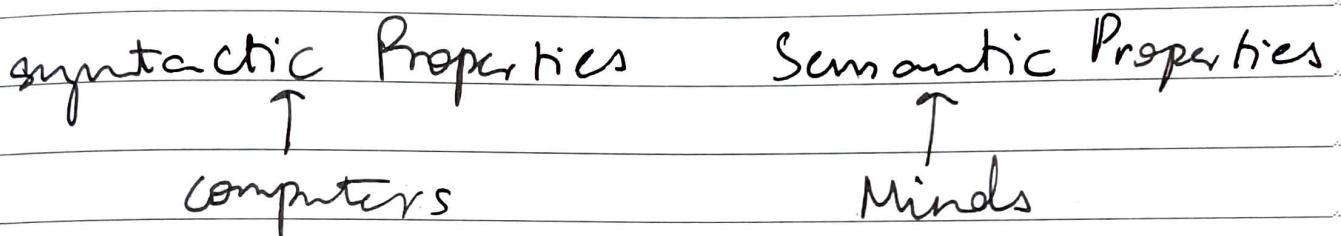
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Machines could just have a huge database with all the right answers

John Searle: The Chinese Room

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

Question of Abortness of thoughts.



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

- Abortness 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 that 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) (printed 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 ~~things~~ 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 effect
- Ego centric Biases
- Ego centrism.

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 behavioral cues?

Methodological Ques

How do we measure consciousness?