

Rationalism



the Rationalist tradition

What Descartes got right

acceptance of innate ideas / faculties

primacy of reason as source of knowledge

how do we arrive at truth?

empiricism = experience and generalization

rationalism = intellect and deductive methods



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rationalism = intellect and deductive methods

rationalism v. empiricism

active mind

rational reasons for behavior

appeals to axioms (endowed)

passive mind

**mechanistic causes of
behavior**

appeals to generalizations



Spinoza

"Ethics: Demonstrated in Geometrical Order"

what Descartes got wrong: dualism

instead double aspectism



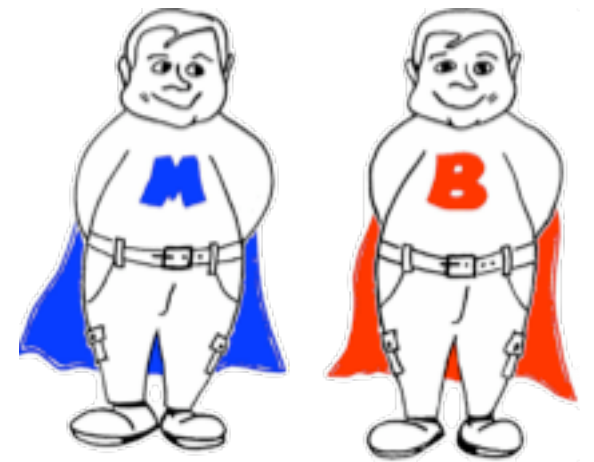
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mind, matter, God are all parts of the same substance (indistinguishable and inseparable)

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Nature (God) is lawful and human nature subscribes to laws

Hume: ignorance of cause

ideas from observation are inadequate (limited in scope)





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pleasure = clarity of ideas

poverty of Stimulus (mind resolves to bring pleasure)



on emotions...

emotions v. passions

emo: directed, healthy, adaptive, actions from within

**passions: undirected, maladaptive, from
without and need to be controlled by reason**

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complex emotions can be derived from basic (pleasure & pain)

**wonder, contempt, love, hatred, devotion, hope, fear,
confidence, despair, joy, disappointment, pity, indignation,
jealousy, envy, sympathy, humility, repentance, pride, honor,
shame, regret, gratitude, revenge, cowardice, ambition, and lust**

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emotions interact and transfer

if an object is first loved and then hated...

if an object causes pain...



Leibniz

what Descartes got wrong: interactionism

what Locke got wrong: “ideas from experience”



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the discovery of knowledge (idea) proceed from axioms and corollaries derived from them



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what does experience do?

experience actualizes an idea... we have disposition for certain ideas



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how does it do it?

psychophysical parallelism

Monadology

advances in histology reveal micro-organisms

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everything consists of these life units: monads

vary in clarity of thought and consciousness

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monads as constituents of mental world that create physical world (physical world is not substantive).

"matter is consciousness... consciousness is matter"

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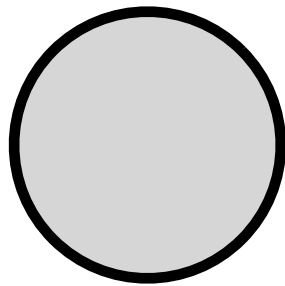
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$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2$$

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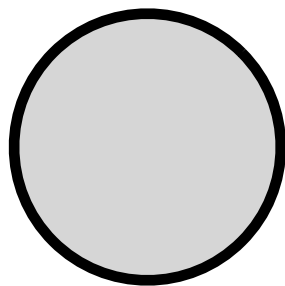
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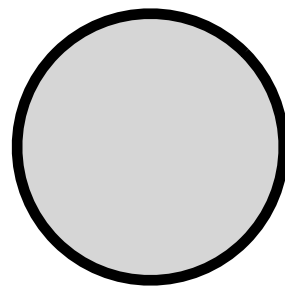
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Aristotle: *scalae naturae* and final cause (monads seek clarity)

on perception...

what people perceive as world is just the activity of infinity
of monads

act psychology: mental acts rather than elements

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distinguishes between conscious and unconscious

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law of continuity

perception exists along a continuum
awareness (limen)

key question in early psychology: characterizing the limen

Thomas Reid

what Descartes got wrong: trust thru benevolence

what Hume got wrong: Skepticism

commonsense philosophy

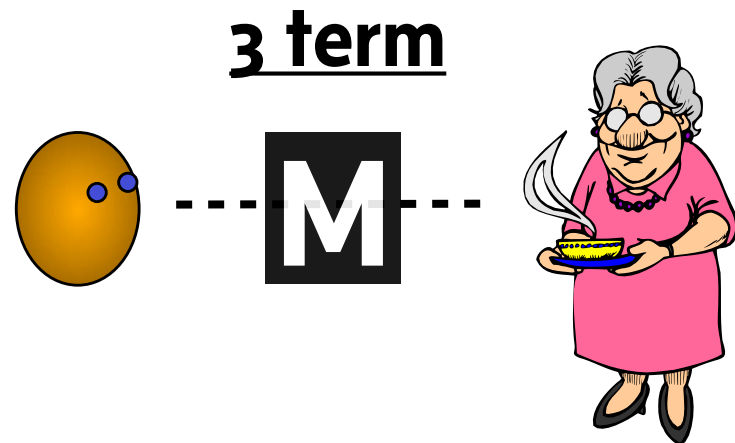
“there is no basis, but we experience (have knowledge) anyway”

group hallucinations?



I resolve not to believe my senses. I break my nose against a post that comes in my way; I step into a dirty kennel; and after twenty such wise and rational actions I am taken up and clapped into a madhouse.

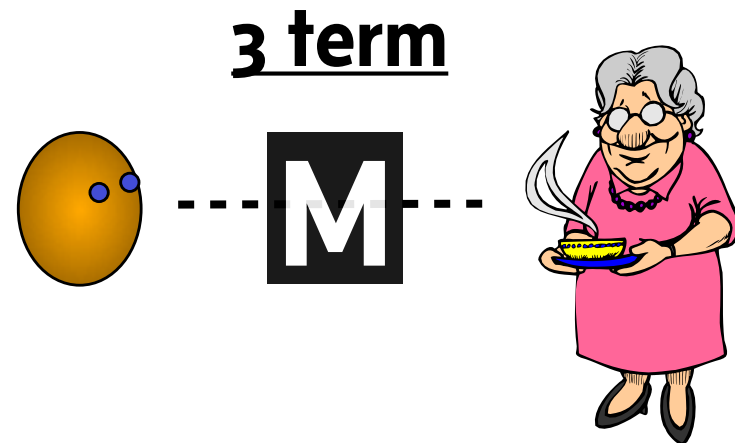
on direct realism



Hume on indirect realism

"The table, which we see, seems to diminish, as we remove farther from it: but the real table, which exists independent of us, suffers no alteration: it was, therefore, nothing but its image, which was present to the mind. These are the obvious dictates of reason; and no man, who reflects, ever doubted, that the existences, which we consider, when we say, this house and that tree, are nothing but perceptions in the mind, and fleeting copies or representations of other existences, which remain uniform and independent."

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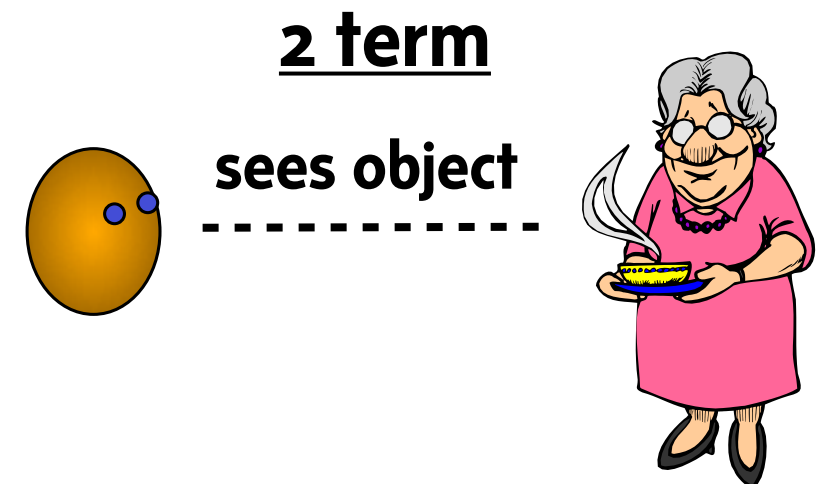
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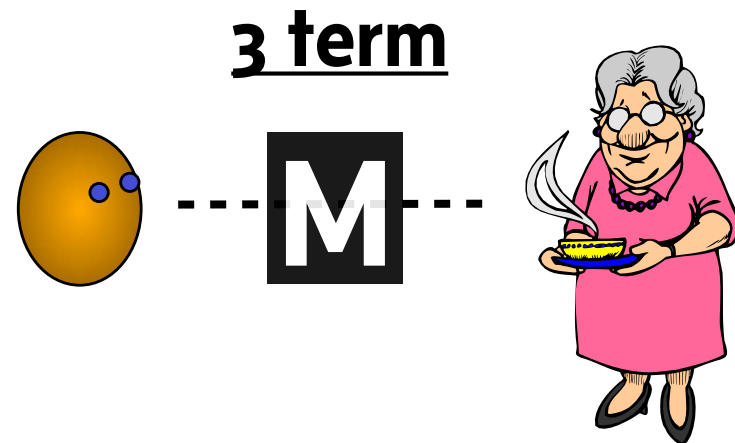
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**nothing needs to be employed
in order to experience the world**

we have an innate ability of perception (faculty psychology)



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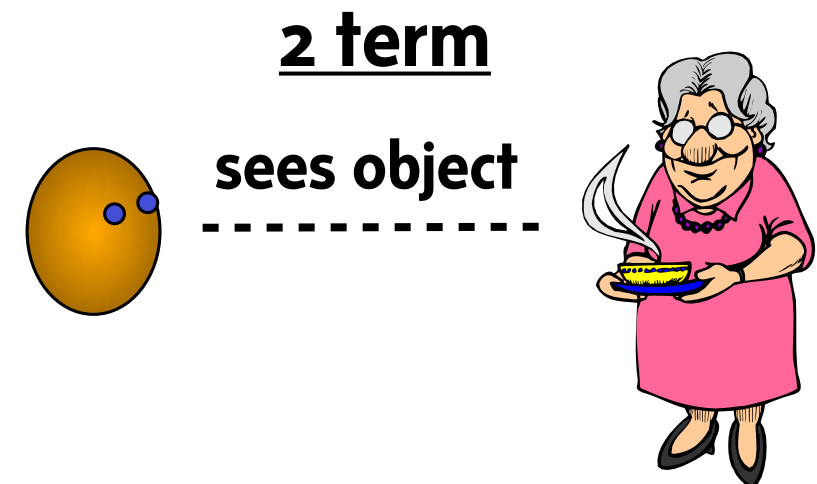
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Kant, Gestalt, Ecological Psychology

Kant



what Leibniz got wrong: reason alone not enough

monad account / "objects of the world exist as they are"

"scandal of philosophy" those who conceived the world as unreal or whom he felt was questioning its reality

Kant



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instead we are designed to experience the world the way we do

ideas and rules

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Locke & Berkeley: theories of truth

ideas and rules

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focus on ideas (cognition) as they relate to objects and other ideas

“an idea can resemble nothing but another idea”

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**most basic concepts are rules (axioms) that structure
experience into a comprehensible form**

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categories of thought:

- **quantity:** unity, plurality, totality,
- **quality:** reality, negation, limitation
- **relation:** inherence and subsistence, cause and effect, community
- **modality:** existence-nonexistence, possibility-impossibility, necessity and contingency

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two innate intuitions: space and time

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two innate intuitions: space and time

scientific facts result from observations made by prepared and organized mind.

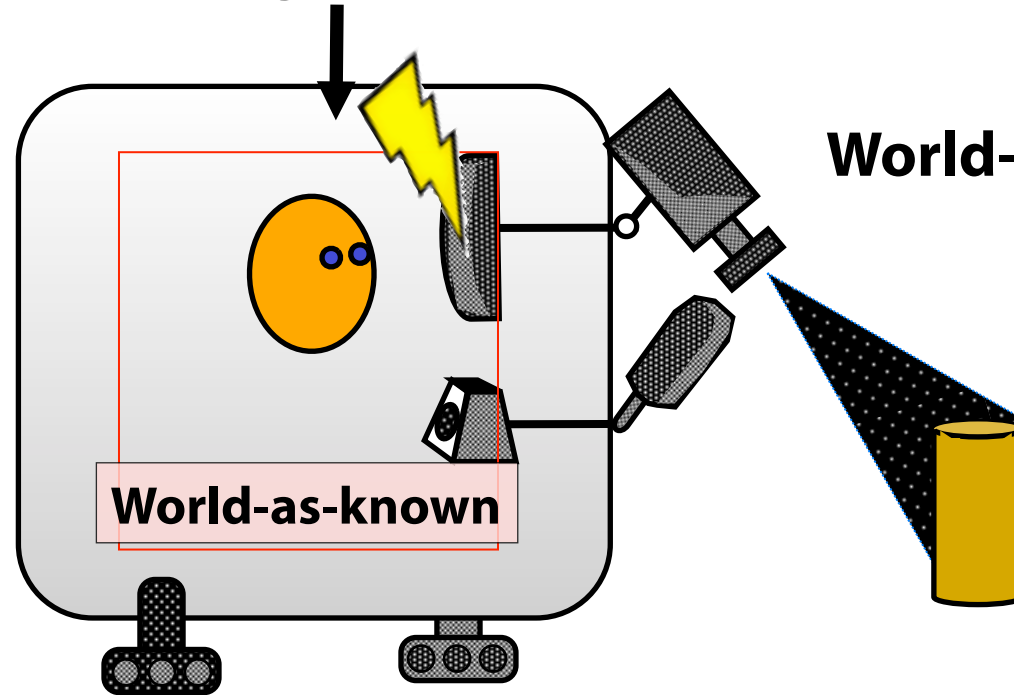
flip Locke on its head



take space...

- 1. not derived from, but is presupposed by sensory experience**
- 2. space is independent of objects / "no space" not conceivable**
- 3. space is unitary and infinite**

**synchronizing currents of
inner room impose structure
on TV images**



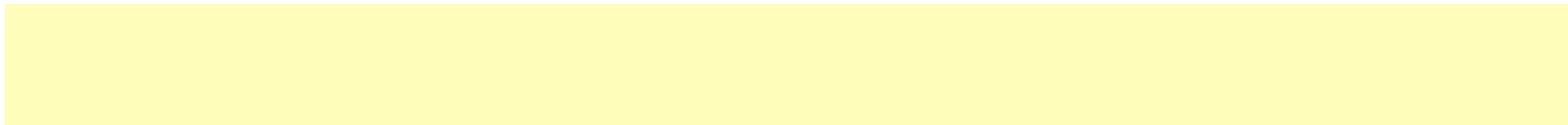
World-as-sensed (phenomena)

World-as-is (noumena)

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Kant: space as pure form of intuition



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**Transcendental Argument: independent of experience,
but constrains experience**

We could not have X if Y were not the case; we do have X,
therefore, Y must necessarily be the case.

Necessary truths originate outside experience.

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Analytic judgment: X is Y, if Y merely clarifies X ("all bachelors are unmarried"). True without appeal to experience. ***A priori.***

Synthetic judgment: X is Y, if Y amplifies X ("all bachelors are happy"). Experience (experiments) required. ***A posteriori.***

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can there be synthetic a priori judgments?

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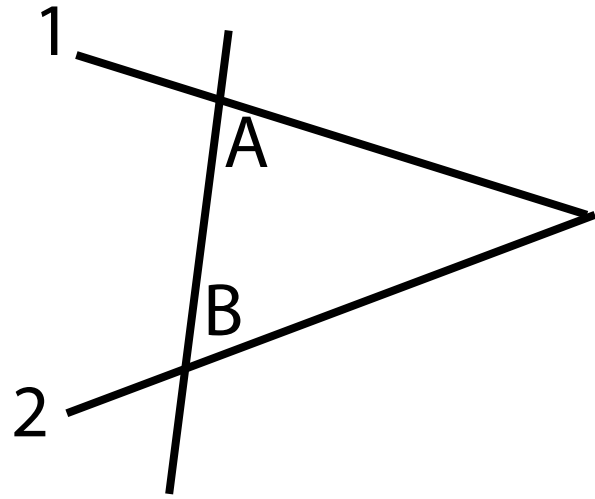
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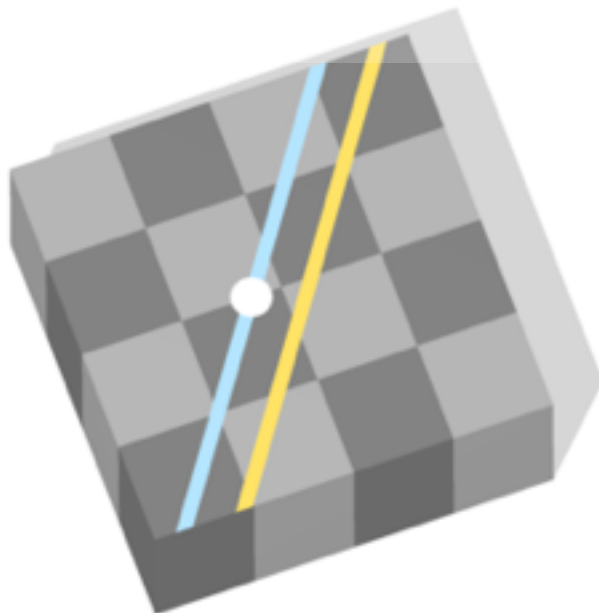
Euclidean geometry is synthetic a priori. Therefore, space is mathematical. Euclidean geometry is space, not a characterization.

Euclid's Fifth Postulate:

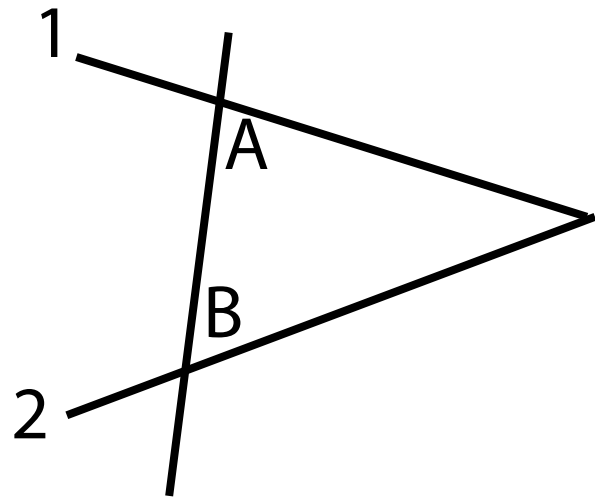


If a straight line falling on two straight lines makes the interior angles on the same side less than two right angles, then the two straight lines if extended will meet on that side of the straight line on which the angles are less than two right angles.

For any line there is only one other that travels thru point P that remains parallel to it.



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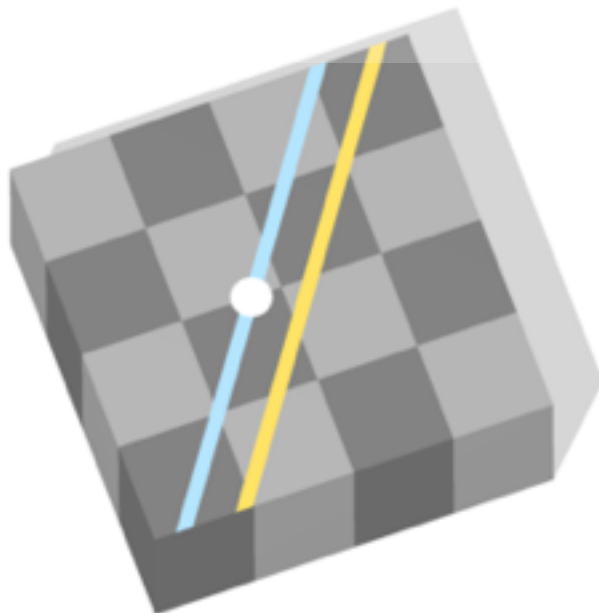
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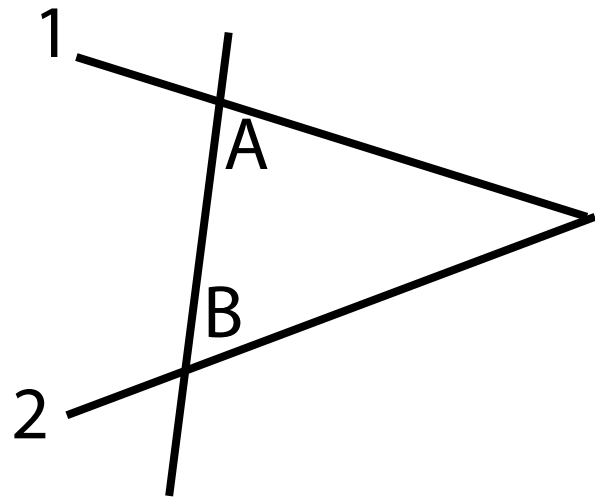
If $A + B < 180^\circ$ then 1 and 2 will eventually meet

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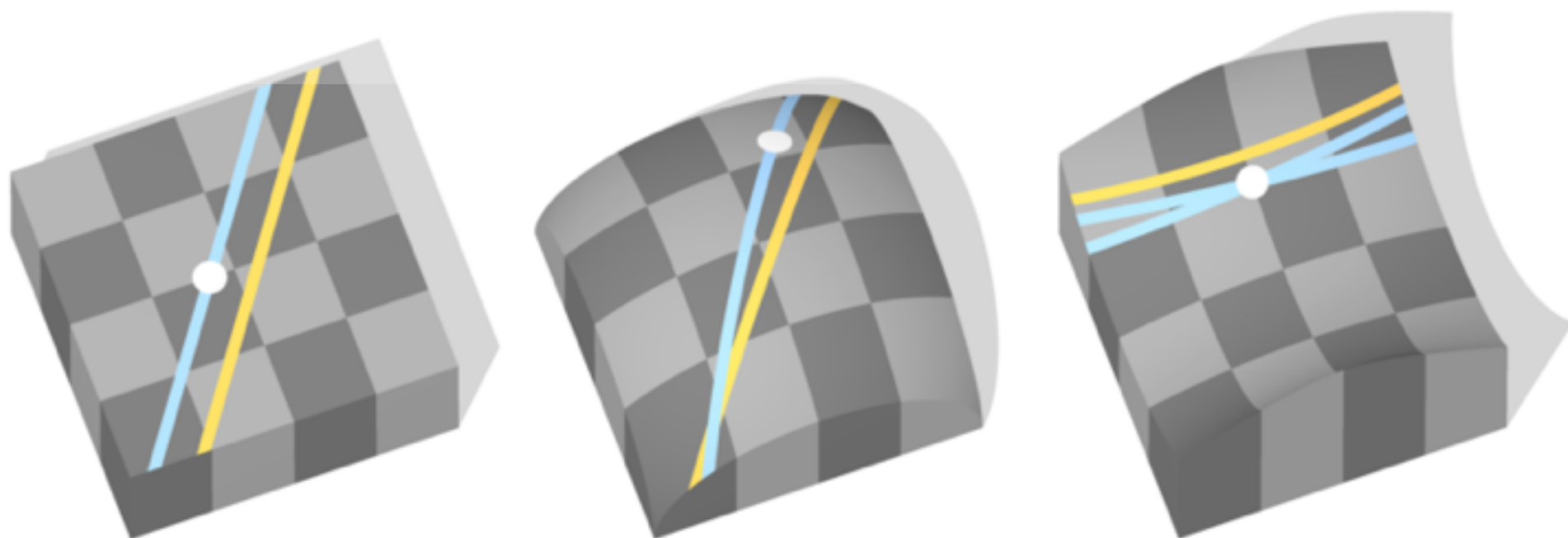
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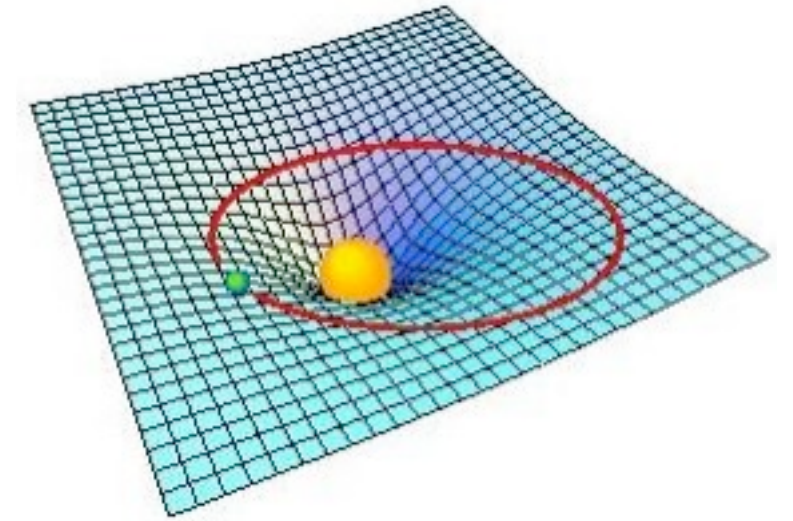
space as pre-existing (independent of the events that occur within it). Things populate space and move within it. Space has a (Euclidean) geometry at outset.

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20th century (Einstein)

All you have is the distribution of matter. The distribution of matter generates the geometry ... generates the space.

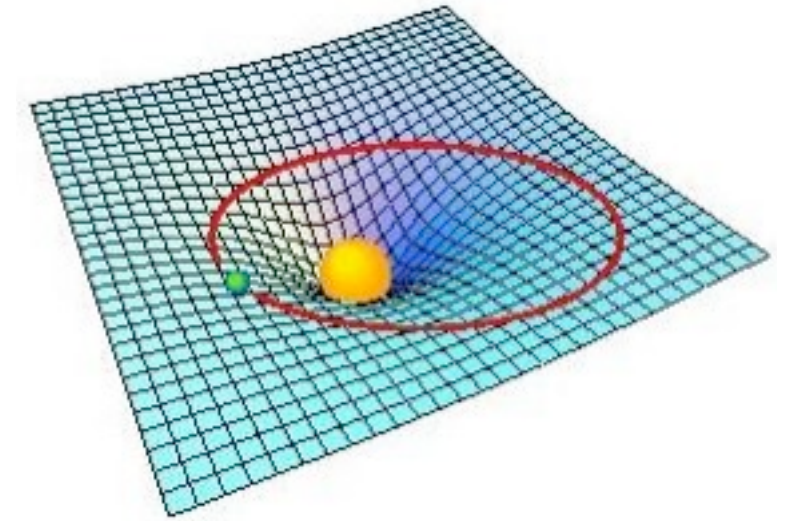


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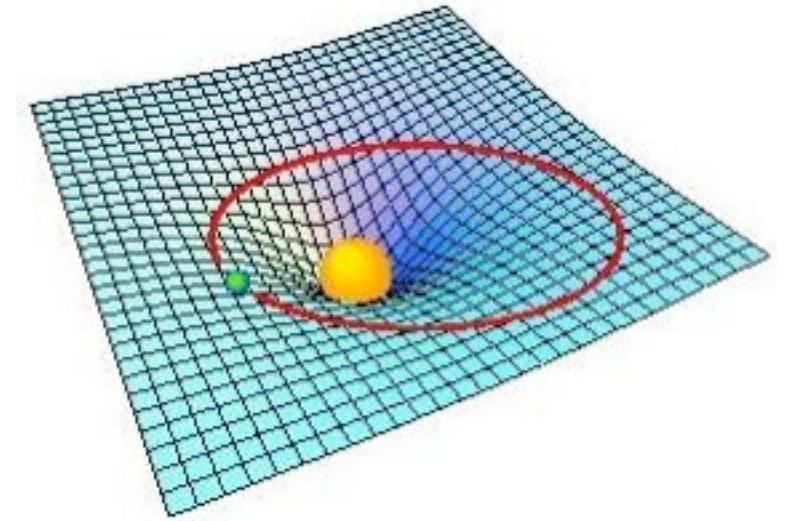
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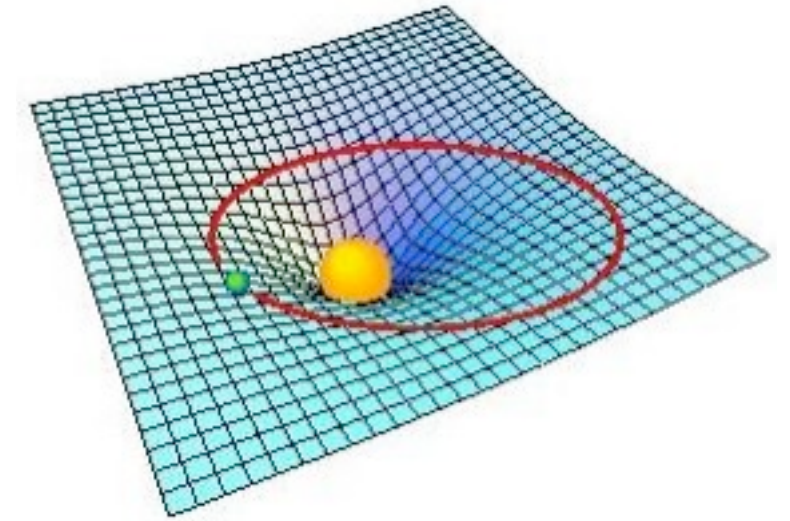
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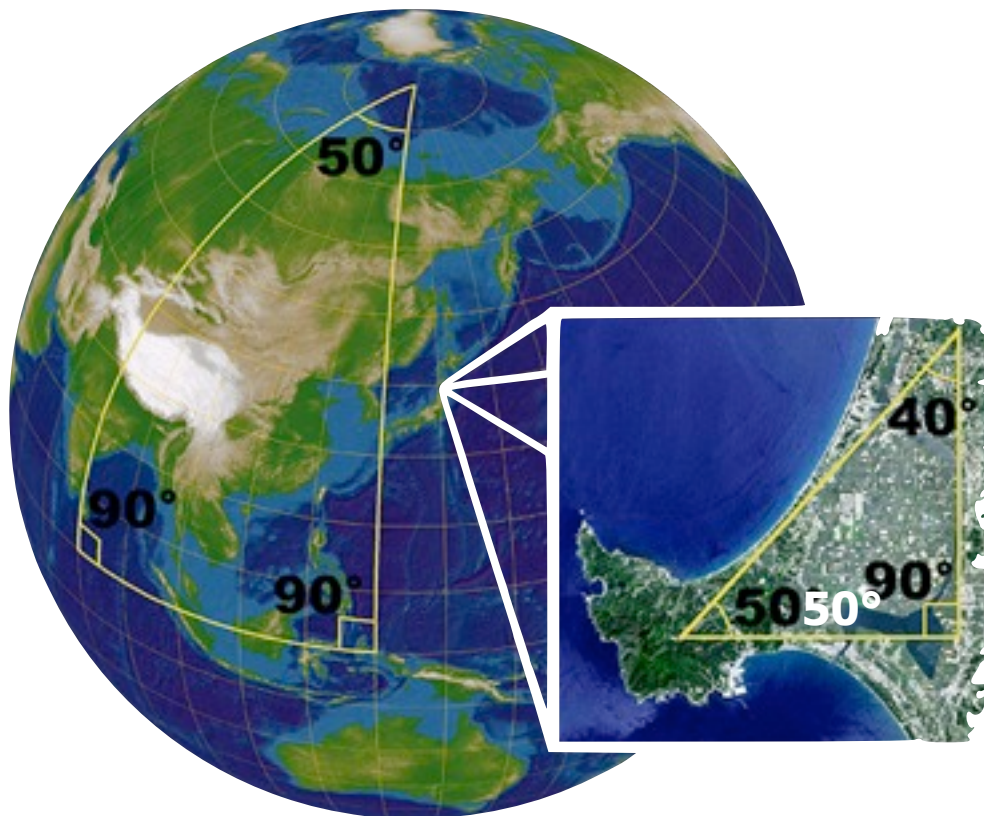
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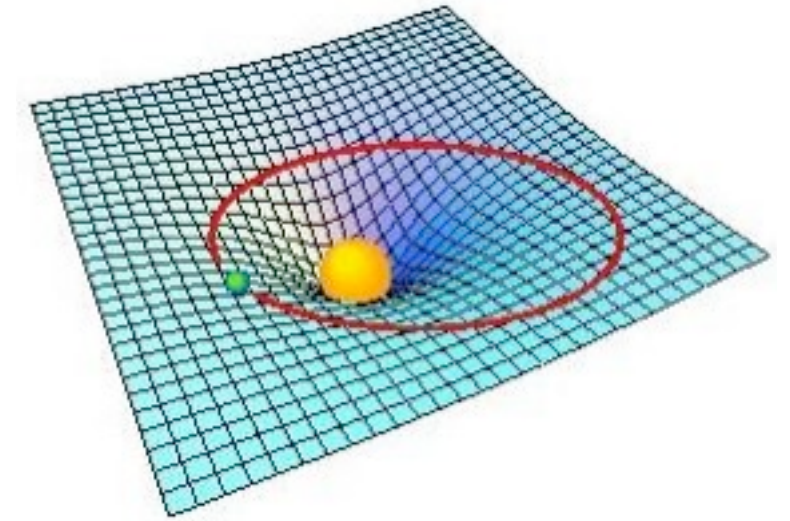


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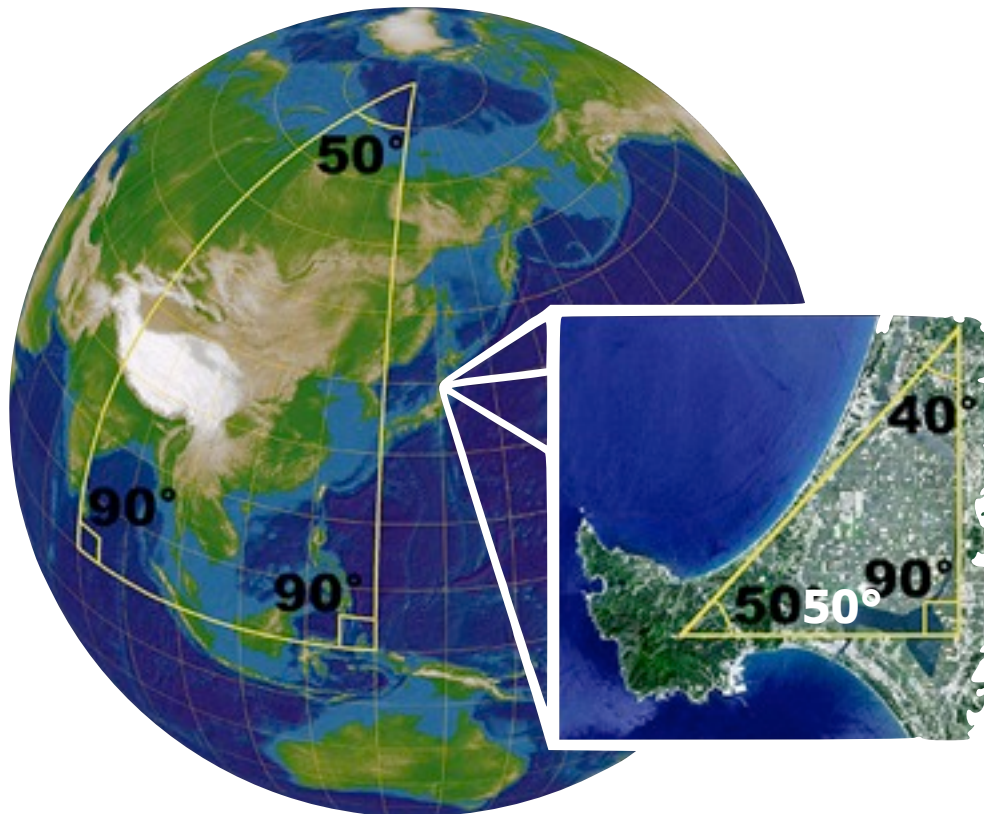
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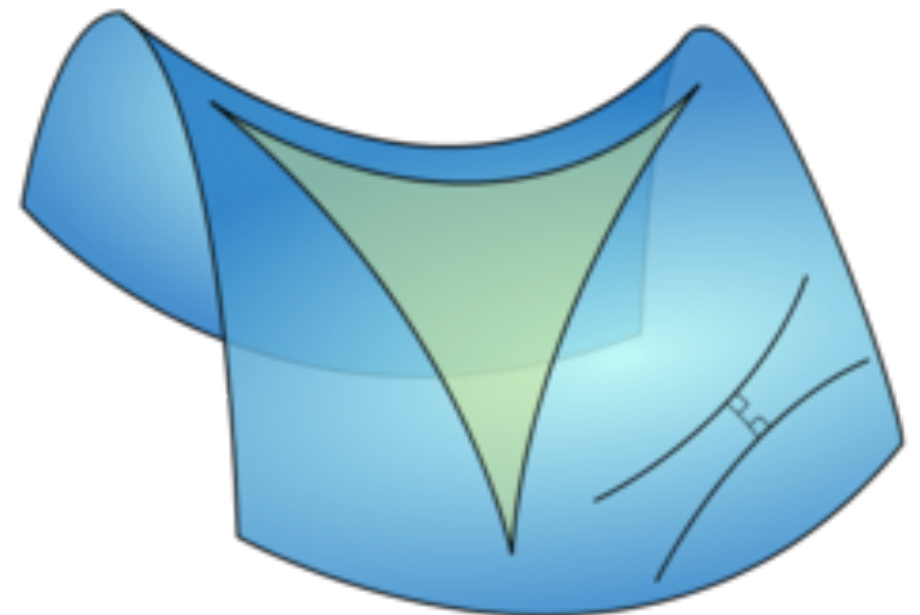
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Kant on practical reason and conclusions

**goal is to make moral decisions independent of empirical world;
free of relativism and hedonism where behavior operates of
pleasure seeking principles (associations)**

reasons for behavior v. causes of

hypothetical imperative: "if you don't want to fail you should study"

**categorical imperative: "I should never act except in such a way that I
can also will that my maxim should become a universal law"**

exists outside of empirical world / allows for free will

*** indeterminacy: psychology as science?**

is there any sense in turning up lights to see what darkness looks like?

**more modern, palpable nativism: human beings have modes of
operation. Anticipated Gestalt psychology.**

is psychology a science?



Herbart

cannot be an experimental science

problems w/ introspection

issues with assumption of superposition

but can be a **mathematical science**

what can we explore??

relationships between ideas, how they are attracted to one another and how they rise to consciousness

apperceptive mass, attention, repression, and conflict

use these tools to shape pedagogy

dawn of psychology

the past six weeks have been about identifying the frameworks through which we have attempted to address these questions.

dawn of psychology

Free will versus determinism (behavior)

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Mind versus body

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