Descartes’ Meditations

What else do I clearly & distinctly perceive?

• Truths of mathematics & geometry (p. 44)
• Corporeal things exist (p. 52).
  – Though I may be wrong about (some of) their qualities.
• I am distinct from my body (p. 51).

Descartes’ Meditations

Descartes’ Dualism

• Reality is made up of two different kinds of stuff (“dualism”) -- *Mind* and *Matter*.
• Opposed to a more scientific view:
  Reality is made up of only one kind of stuff (“Monism”)--
  – *Matter*: “Physicalism” or “Materialism”.
  – Mind is just a complicated arrangement of matter, not different *in kind*. 
Descartes’ Dualism

• How could Descartes show there are two kinds of stuff?
• Descartes proves that mind is distinct from body.
• In Meditation 2, proof of his own existence as a “thinking thing” makes no reference to matter.
• But are they really distinct?

Descartes’ Dualism

• First proof that mind & body are distinct (p. 51):
  • Mind is essentially thinking & non-extended.
  • Body is essentially non-thinking & extended.
  • ∴ Mind ≠ Body.
  
  And I can exist without my body! (Immortality)

Descartes’ Dualism

• First proof that mind & body are distinct (p. 51):
  • Body is essentially non-thinking & extended.
  • What does that mean?
  • Physical things necessarily have a location and take up space.
  • True by definition?
  • Do we know body is essentially non-thinking?
  • Could computer-robots think?

Leibniz’s Law

• Gottfried Leibniz (1646-1716)
• If this and that thing are really the same thing, then they have to have all the same properties.
• If this and that have different properties, then they are different things.

Alan Turing (1912-1954)

Inventor of computers
Could computers think?

- “Computing Machinery and Intelligence” (1950)
- The Turing Test (a guessing game):
  - By just asking questions and receiving typed answers from a computer and a person hidden from view, could you tell which was which within a certain time limit? If not, the computer passes the test for thinking.

Descartes’ Dualism

- First proof that mind & body are distinct (p. 51):
  - Mind is essentially thinking & non-extended.
  - True by definition?
  - Do we know mind is essentially non-extended?
  - Can we tell just by reflection?

- Second proof that mind & body are distinct (p. 56):
  - Mind is essentially indivisible.
  - Body is essentially divisible.
  - $\therefore$ Mind $\neq$ Body.

What is true in the premisses doesn’t validly lead to that conclusion.

Split-Brain Patients

- Second proof that mind & body are distinct (p. 56):
  - “Mind is essentially indivisible.”
  - Is this true?
Freud’s Psychoanalysis

- Three parts of the soul:
  - Ego, Id, and Superego
  - Conscious/Unconscious
  - Psyche = Soul/Mind
- Analysis = Break into Parts.

Multiple Personalities?

- Not aware of each other.
- Mind has separate parts?
- There are separate minds in the same body?

Descartes’ Dualism

- Second proof that mind & body are distinct (p. 56):
  - Body is essentially divisible.
  - Is this true?
  - Are time and space infinitely divisible?
  - Conceptually?
    - Yes.
  - Experimentally/Physically?
    - We don’t know.

Descartes’ Dualism

- My proof that Water & H₂O are distinct:
  - Water is essentially homogeneous.
  - H₂O is essentially non-homogeneous.
  - $\therefore$ Water $\neq$ H₂O.
- Can I figure these things out just by thinking about it?
  - Just because I conceive these as being different doesn’t mean they are different.