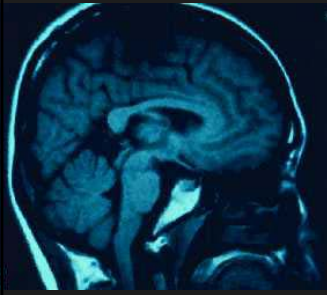


Descartes' Meditations



Descartes' Meditations

Math
Geom.

Phys obj's
exist

Mind
≠
Body

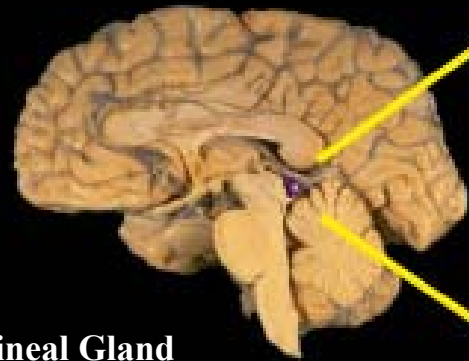
C & D perceptions
are accurate

God exists

I exist (as a thinking thing)

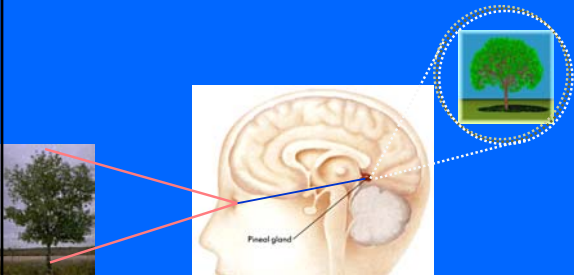
Descartes' Dualism

- If Descartes is right, that mind is distinct from body, what is their relationship?
- Each affects the other-- "Interaction":
 - Physical injury causes mental pain.
 - Mental decisions cause physical actions.
- How does interaction occur?
- The "common" sense (p. 56) = Pineal gland

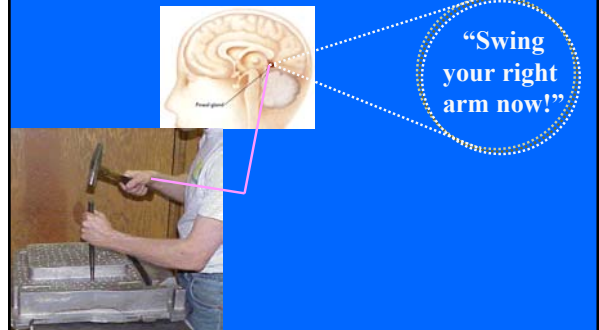


Pineal Gland


Mind-Body Interaction



Mind-Body Interaction



Satellite :
Ground
Antenna ::



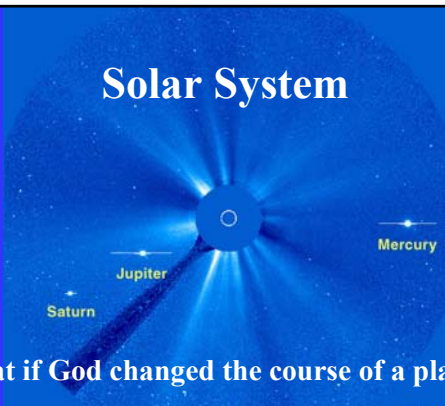
NASDA

Soul :
Pineal Gland?

Mind-Body Interaction

- Soul causes things to happen in the brain that wouldn't have happened if soul had not intervened.
- If non-physical soul can influence physical brain, then *human brain must not be completely governed by the laws of physics!*
- Why not?

Solar System



What if God changed the course of a planet?

2000/05/03 18:18



Can we predict an eclipse?


Descartes' Dualism

The
"Ghost in the Machine"?



• Soul : Body :: Captain : Ship?

Descartes' Dualism



Like a captain at the helm of a ship

- "No" (p. 53):
 - Soul and body are "commingled".
 - I am a "union" of soul and body.
- I *feel* damage, I don't "learn about it".

Descartes' Dualism

- How can a physical event *cause* a non-physical mental event?
- How can a non-physical mental event *cause* a physical event?
- Perhaps it's impossible.

Psychophysical Parallelism

- Mind and physical world *cannot* causally interact.
- So God must have arranged them to line up together.
- "Pre-established Harmony"



Gottfried Leibniz
(1646-1716)

Psycho-physical Parallelism



"Yow!"
"Pull back arm!!!"



Visual-Audio Parallelism

- Relationship of visual track to sound track in a movie.

What you see on the screen doesn't really *cause* what you hear. It's just arranged by the director to seem like that.



Nagel's Dual-Aspect Theory

- *What Does It All Mean?* pp. 33-36.
- There is only one kind of substance--matter.
- But matter can have two different kinds of states: mental states and physical states.



Thomas Nagel
(1937-)

Nagel's Dual-Aspect Theory

- Computers are just physical things.
- But we can describe them two ways:
- Physically: "The circuits are...."



Mentally: "It is looking for my document."
or "It is checking the spelling of my paper."

Positions on Mind-Body

