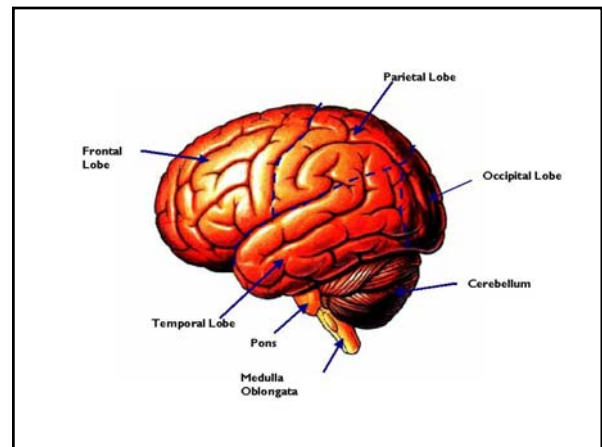
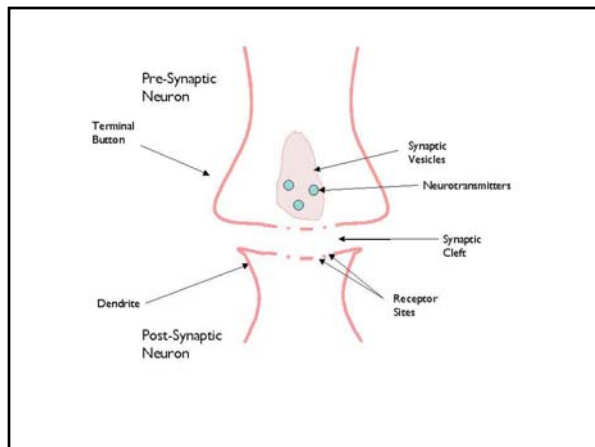
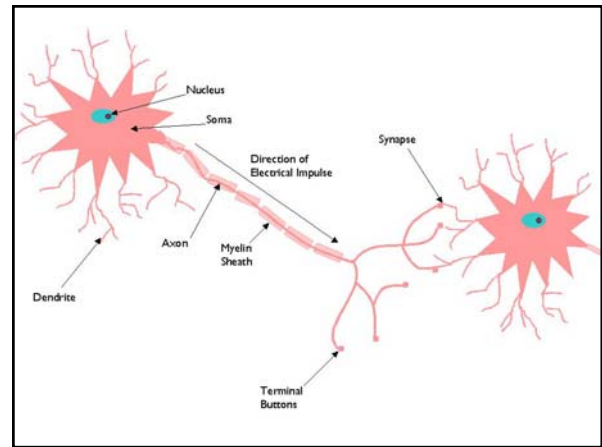
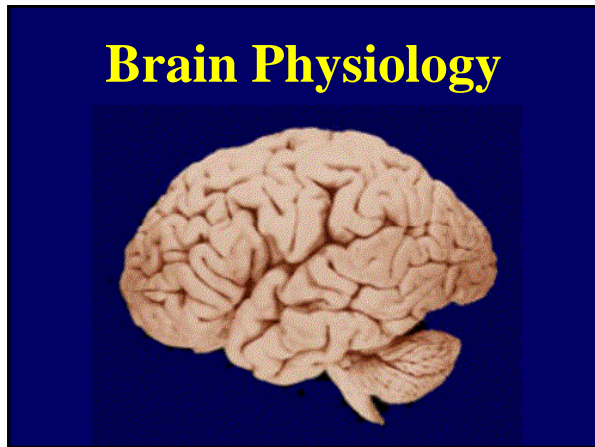
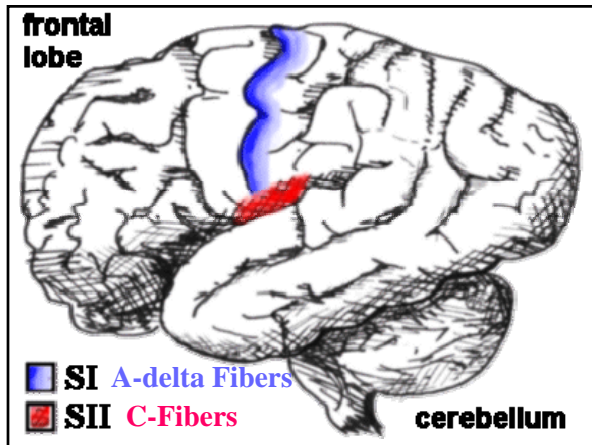
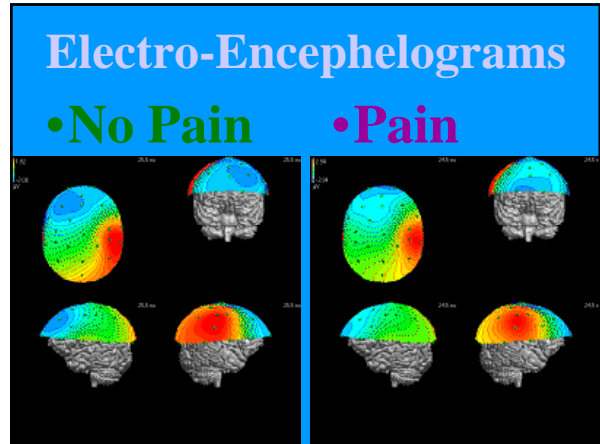
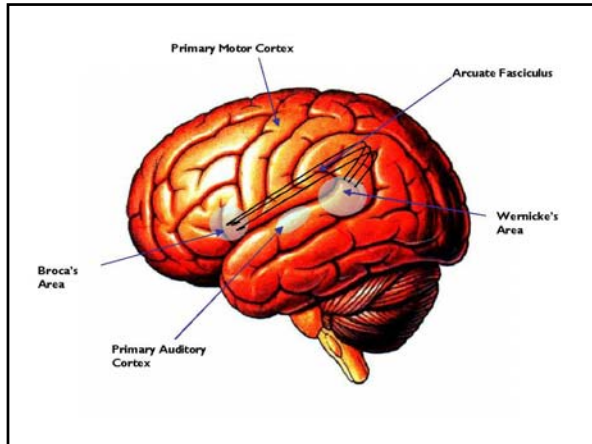


Materialism = Physicalism

- What is materialism?
- Humans are made of only one kind of stuff--matter.
- We have a mind, but what we call “the mind” is really just a complicated arrangement of matter--namely, the brain.
- A “mental experience” is really just a matter of your brain being in a certain state.






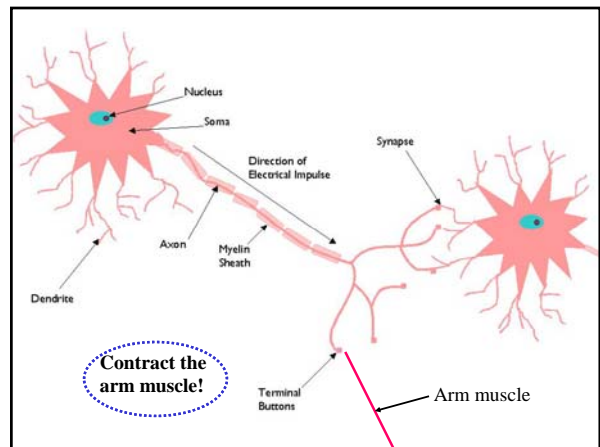
Pain

- When I have dull throbbing pain, the c-fibers in my brain are activated.
- When I have sharp stabbing pain, the a-delta fibers in my brain are activated.
- **Dualism:** Dull throbbing pain *is produced* by the activation of my c-fibers.
- **Materialism:** Dull throbbing pain *is simply* the activation of my c-fibers.

Action



- Suppose I scratch my nose.
- So my arm muscles must contract.
- So nerves to my arm muscles must activate the muscles.
- Those nerves must be activated by something in my brain.
- How does that activation in the brain happen?



Action

- If the brain cell activates the terminal button, then the arm muscle will contract.
- If the arm muscle contracts without being activated by the brain cell, then something physical has happened without a prior physical cause.
- New energy enters the universe.
- Violates the Law of Conservation of Energy (pp. 25-27).

Action

- Suppose the non-physical “decision” doesn’t *replace* the brain-cell activation, but simply *accompanies* it.
- Then there is no violation of the Law of Conservation of Energy.
- But is that a plausible account?


Why do the planets go around the sun?



Angels push them.

Why do the planets go around the sun?

“Gravity”



Isaac Newton (1643-1727)

Action

- If gravity is sufficient to explain the movement of the planets around the sun, then it is superfluous to include angels in the explanation.
- Principle of Simplicity (p. 5):
- If there are two theories, both of which explain the same number of observations or facts, then we should accept the one that posits fewer objects, or is more simple.

Ockham’s Razor

- William of Ockham
- (1288-1349)
- “Entities should not be multiplied unnecessarily.”
- When explaining something, don’t include unnecessary hypotheses.





Versions of Materialism

- Type-Type Materialism (p. 36)
- Token-Token Materialism (p. 37)
- What are “types” and “tokens”

Versions of Materialism

- Type-Type Materialism
- Pain (as a *type* of mental experience) is the firing of C-fibers (as a *type* of brain state).
- What if dogs don't have C-fibers?
- Then they don't have pain (according to this theory).
- But that seems pretty implausible.

Versions of Materialism

- Perhaps pain (in dogs) *is realized by* the firing of something else in its brain.
- “Multiple-Realizability” (pp. 37-38)

Versions of Materialism

- What do we mean by “*is realized by*”?
- Engineering/architectural concept:
 - “Realized by” = “embodied by”
 - A blueprint is *realized by* a building.
 - A blueprint is *made real by* the building.
 - The building is the realization of the plan.

Wright Brothers Airplane

“Realization” in wood & canvas:

Versions of Materialism



- Multiple-realizability of chess:
- Wooden figures on a board
- Symbols on a diagram.

Versions of Materialism

- Token-Token Chess
- All games of chess are realized by some physical system or another.
- But “checkmate” can be realized in many different ways: by the arrangement of wooden pieces on a board, or by electronic pulses in a computer, or....

Versions of Materialism

- Token-Token Materialism
- This particular experience of pain realized by this brain event.
- But some other particular experience of pain might be realized by some different brain event of a different type.
- All experiences of pain just *are* brain events, but not necessarily *the same type*.

Problem of Consciousness

- Pp. 38-45:
- Materialism and scientific approach to things only account for external, objective perspective on experience.
- Isn't there an internal, subjective perspective on experience-- “how it feels,” “how it seems” --that is essential?

Problem of Consciousness

- Patch of light-waves
- 570 nanometers
- 2 x 2 square

