SOLIPSISM
(The poverty of...)
Maybe reality is completely different to what we think?

- Fancy words from philosophy:
- Epistemology - what we can know and how we know it
- Ontology: what reality is actually, for sure, all about. What, ultimately, exists.
- Maybe ultimate reality is like…
1. Plato’s Cave
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Idea of the Good</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural things</td>
<td>Ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadows of natural things</td>
<td>Mathematic Objects: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artificial things</td>
<td>Living and dead things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadows of artificial things</td>
<td>Symbols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of analogy</td>
<td>Sun and lines analogy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2. Descartes’ Demon
3. Brain-in-a-vat

I’m driving a Lamborghini!!
WHAT IF OUR BRAIN WAS ACTUALLY IN A VAT HOOKED UP TO COMPUTERS Sending ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES TO BRAIN MAKE A REALITY THAT WE SEE AS 100 PERCENT REAL.

HOW WOULD WE KNOW IT WAS A FAKE REALITY?
4. The Matrix
5. The simulation argument

http://www.simulation-argument.com/
6. Other solipsism

- Only you exist
- Only you and me exist
- Only you and 5 other people exist, etc.
- The universe began with you
- The universe began yesterday
- The universe began *now*
- The universe only lasts 1 microsecond
- All the previous slides are equal in terms of their philosophical “force”.

David Deutsch
vs Solipsism

• Concern about any of this is concern about not being certain or sure. Can’t prove it - but so? Can’t prove anything outside maths. *Proof* not that important.

• We can’t be certain about *anything*...and this is not a problem. (Descartes was wrong). Humans are *always* fallible.

• Certainty doesn’t even *matter*. (It’s just a feeling some people want),

• Knowledge matters (it changes the world).

• We know that the best theory is: we come to better
Closer to Truth

Introduction  https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC19StMQ79LtEvlrskzjoYbQ

Simulation argument  http://www.closertotruth.com/contributor/jaron-lanier/profile

Truth  http://www.closertotruth.com/contributor/david-deutsch/profile


Mind, brain, perception:  http://www.closertotruth.com/contributor/david-eagleman/profile