

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...

I. Plato's Cave

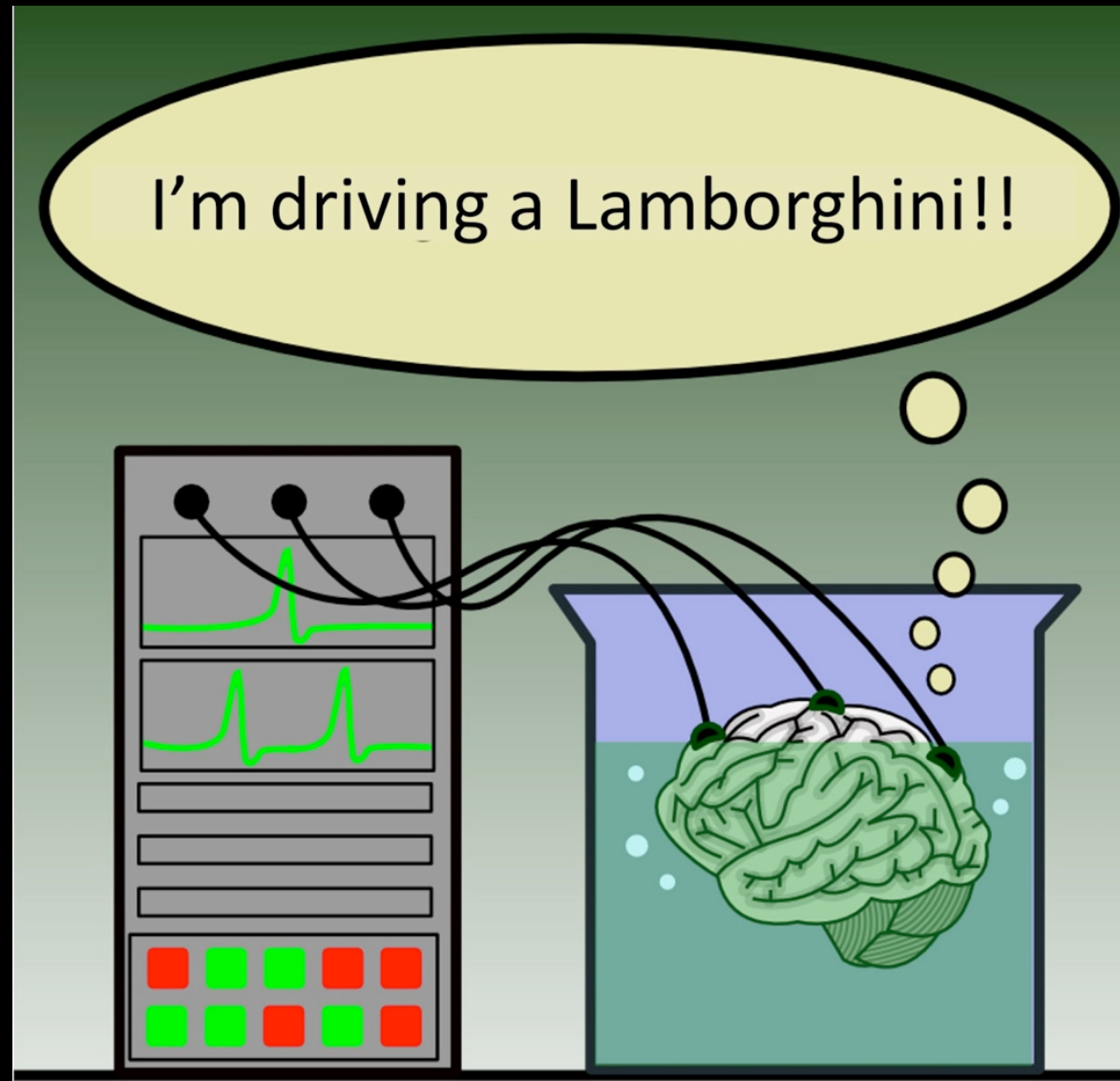


Sun		Idea of the Good
Natural things		Ideas
Shadows of natural things		Mathematic Objects $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$
Fire		Sun
Artificial things		Living and dead things
Shadows of artificial things		Symbols
Level of analogy		Sun and lines analogy

2. Descartes' Demon



3. Brain-in-a-vat



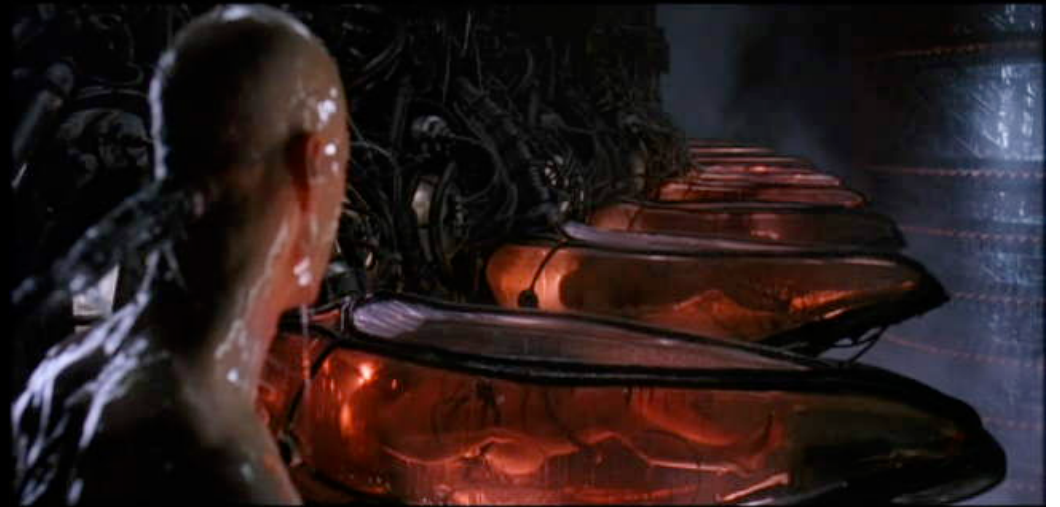
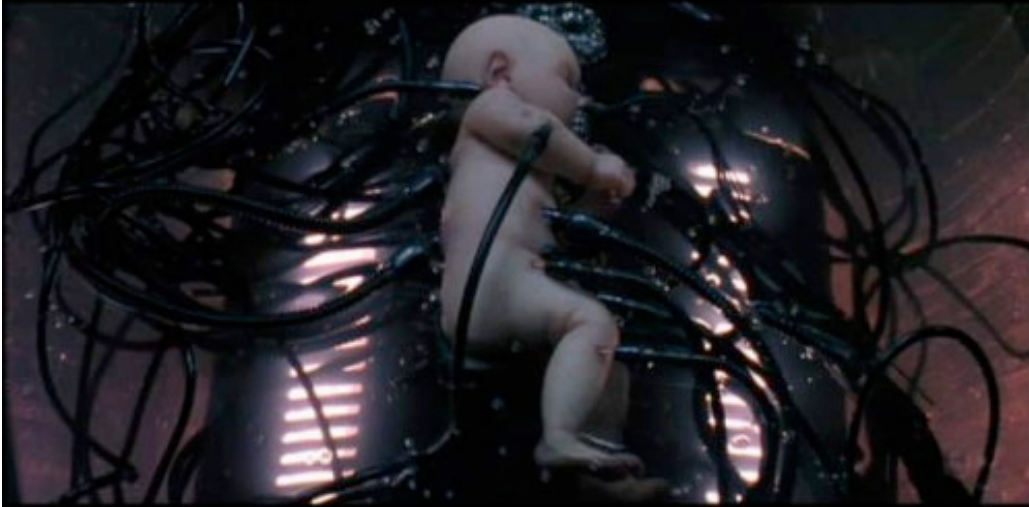
**WHAT IF OUR BRAIN WAS ACTUALLY IN A
VAT HOOKED UP TO COMPUTERS SENDING
ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES TO BRAIN MAKE A
REALITY THAT WE SEE AS 100 PERCENT
REAL.**



**HOW WOULD WE KNOW
IT WAS A FAKE REALITY?**

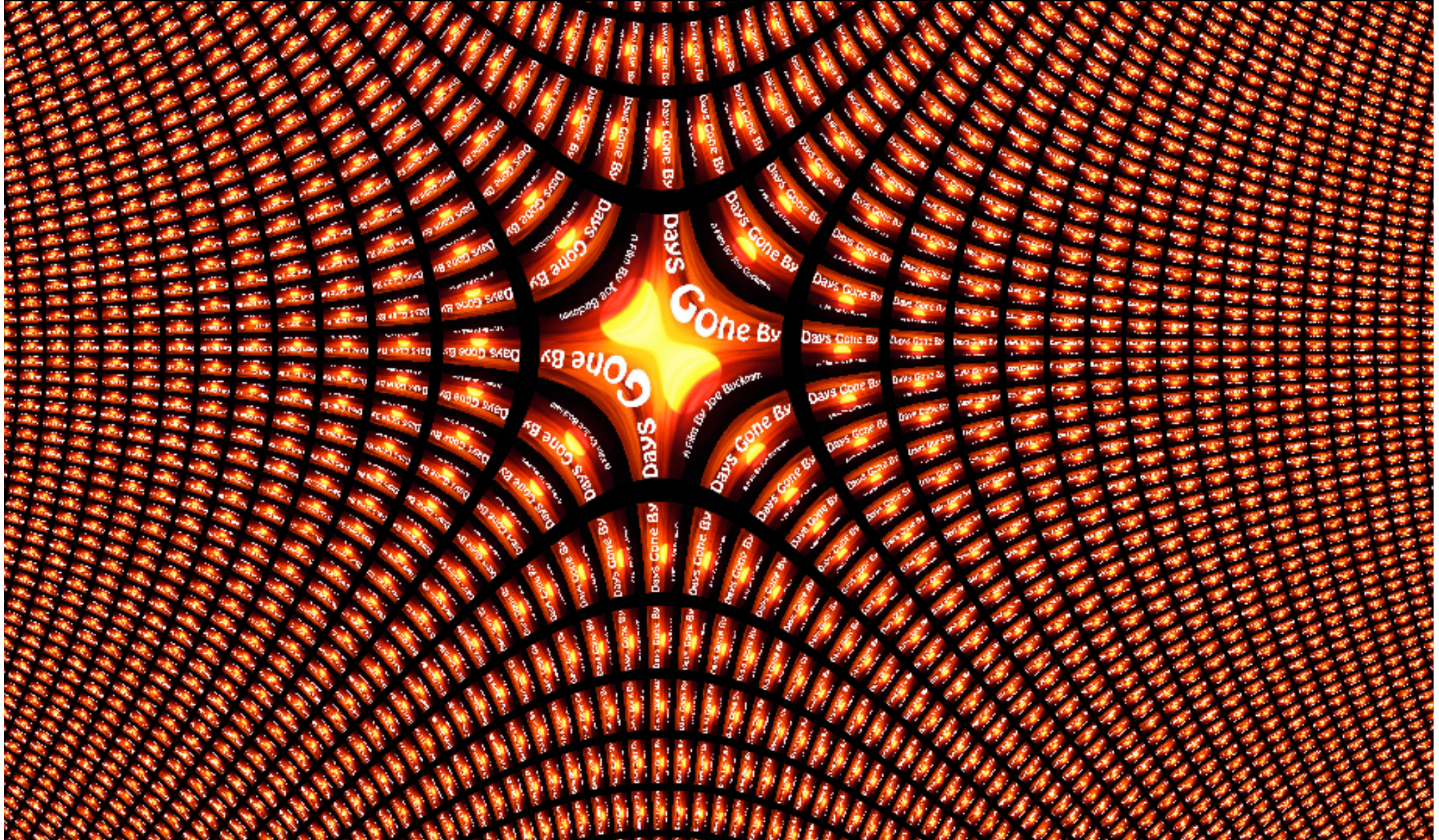
made on imgur

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/UCI9StMQ79LtEvlrskzjoYbQ>

Simulation argument <http://www.closetotruth.com/contributor/jaron-lanier/profile>

Truth <http://www.closetotruth.com/contributor/david-deutsch/profile>

Extra Perceptions? <http://www.closetotruth.com/contributor/susan-blackmore/profile>

Mind, brain, perception: <http://www.closetotruth.com/contributor/david-eagleman/profile>