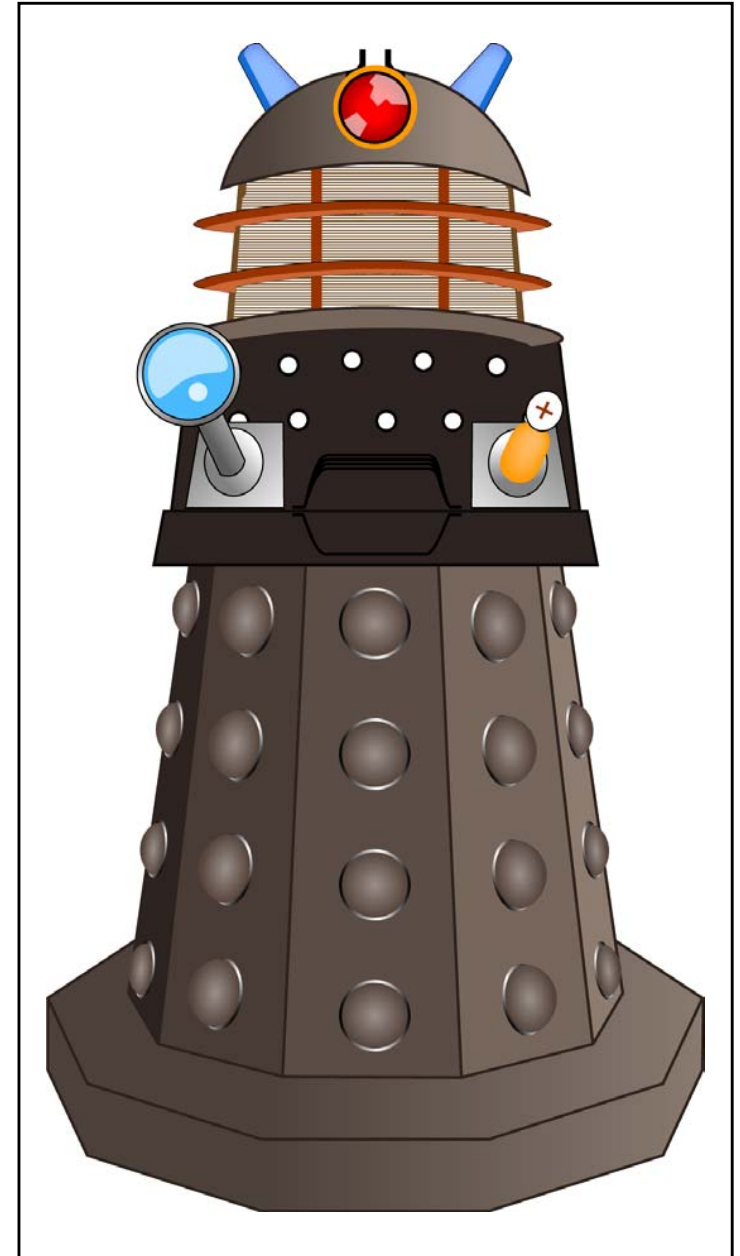


24.09 Minds and Machines

Fall 11 HASS-D CI

dualism



main topics covered so far

arguments

validity, soundness

the Chinese room argument

derived vs. underived intentionality

weak vs. strong AI

strong strong vs. weak strong AI

Turing machines

the Turing test

from the Chinese room to dualism

if weak strong AI is true, then the mind is physical, in the sense that only physical materials are needed to build an entity with mental states

so, if the mind is not physical, weak strong AI is false

and according to dualism, a position held by Descartes, the mind is not physical



René Descartes (1596-1650)

Meditations (1642)

‘Wherein are demonstrated the existence of God and the Distinction of Soul from Body’

Principles of Philosophy
(1644)

Passions of the Soul (1649)

philosophical toolkit: properties and particulars

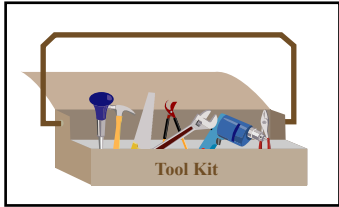
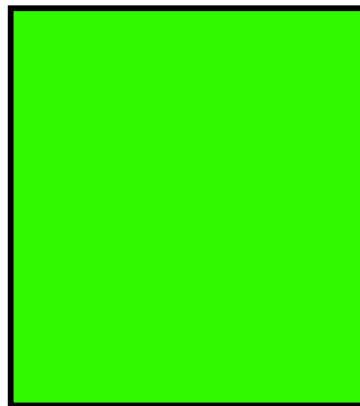
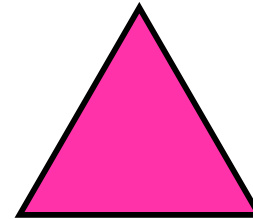


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three particulars with a variety of properties
(features, attributes)

see handout

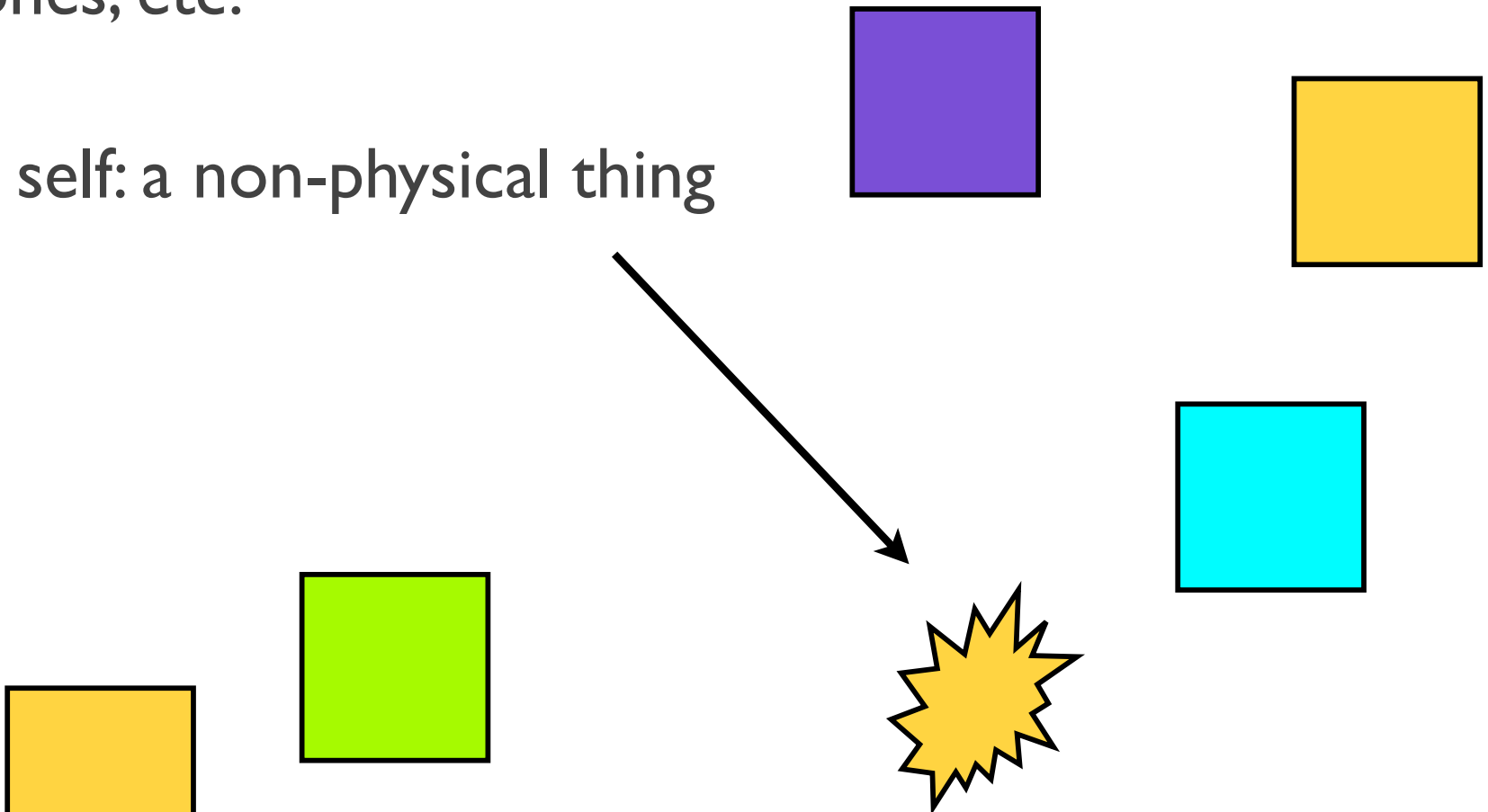


substance dualism (Descartes)

‘substance’ is a bit of philosophical terminology that is (more-or-less) interchangeable with ‘particular’

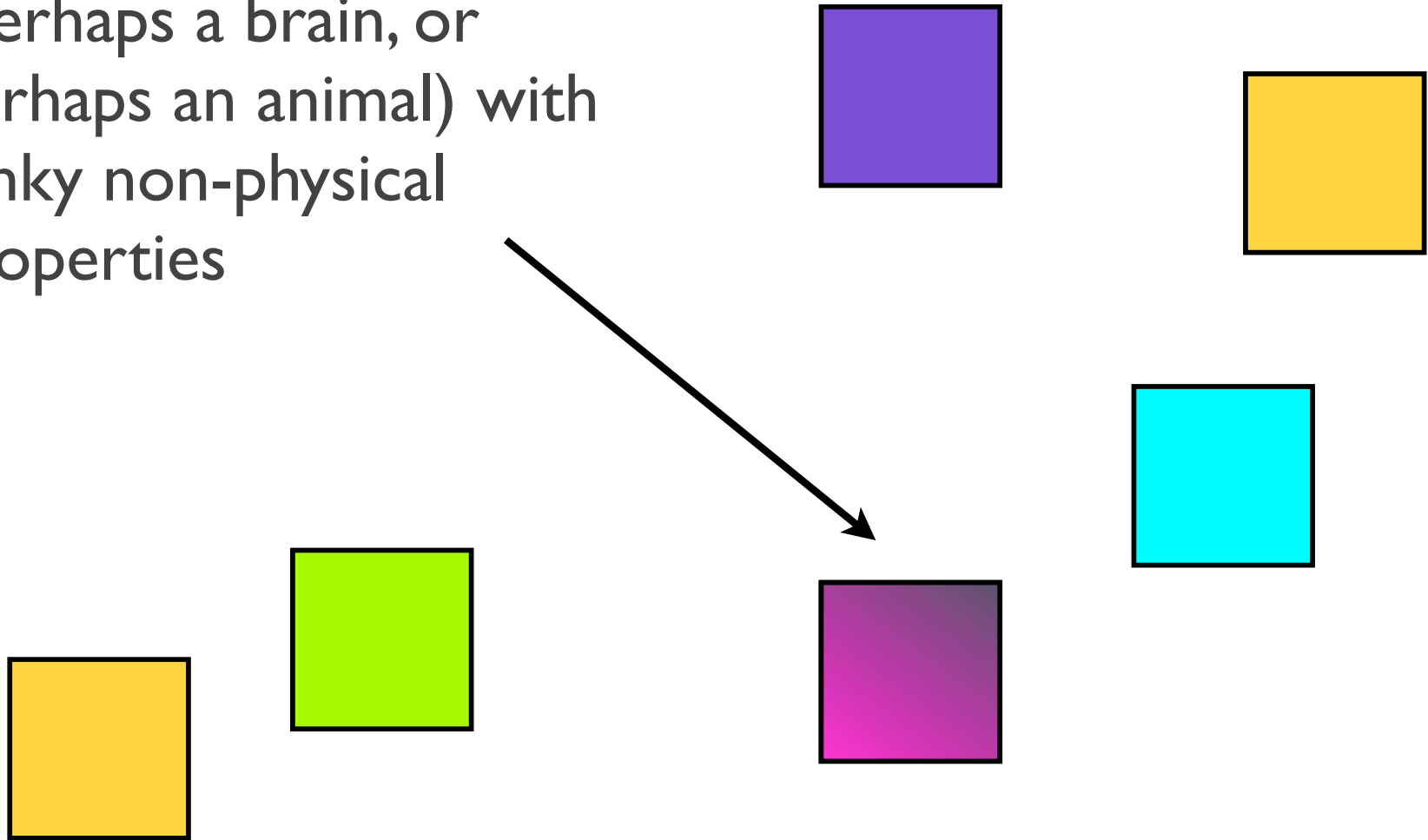
the squares are physical objects: brains, bodies, stones, etc.

the self: a non-physical thing



property dualism (the more contemporary kind)

the self: a physical thing
(perhaps a brain, or
perhaps an animal) with
funky non-physical
properties



philosophical toolkit: propositions

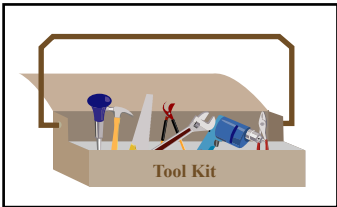


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propositions are the things believed (desired, etc.) and asserted: that snow is white, that Cambridge is a city, that the earth is flat,...

propositions can be true or false

propositions are pieces of information (or misinformation)

argument A

1. I cannot doubt that I exist
 2. I can doubt that my body exists [or that anything physical exists, come to that] therefore:
- C. I am not my body

an argument like this is suggested in the passage on p. 11 that begins 'I am not that structure of limbs...' and ends 'for all that I am still something' but the next few sentences seem to take it back

argument B

1. I cannot doubt that the masked man is before me
2. I can doubt that my father is before me
therefore:
- C. the masked man is not my father

the 'masked man fallacy'

Image removed due to copyright restrictions.
An illustration of Darth Vader.

upcoming sessions

read Smullyan, Searle

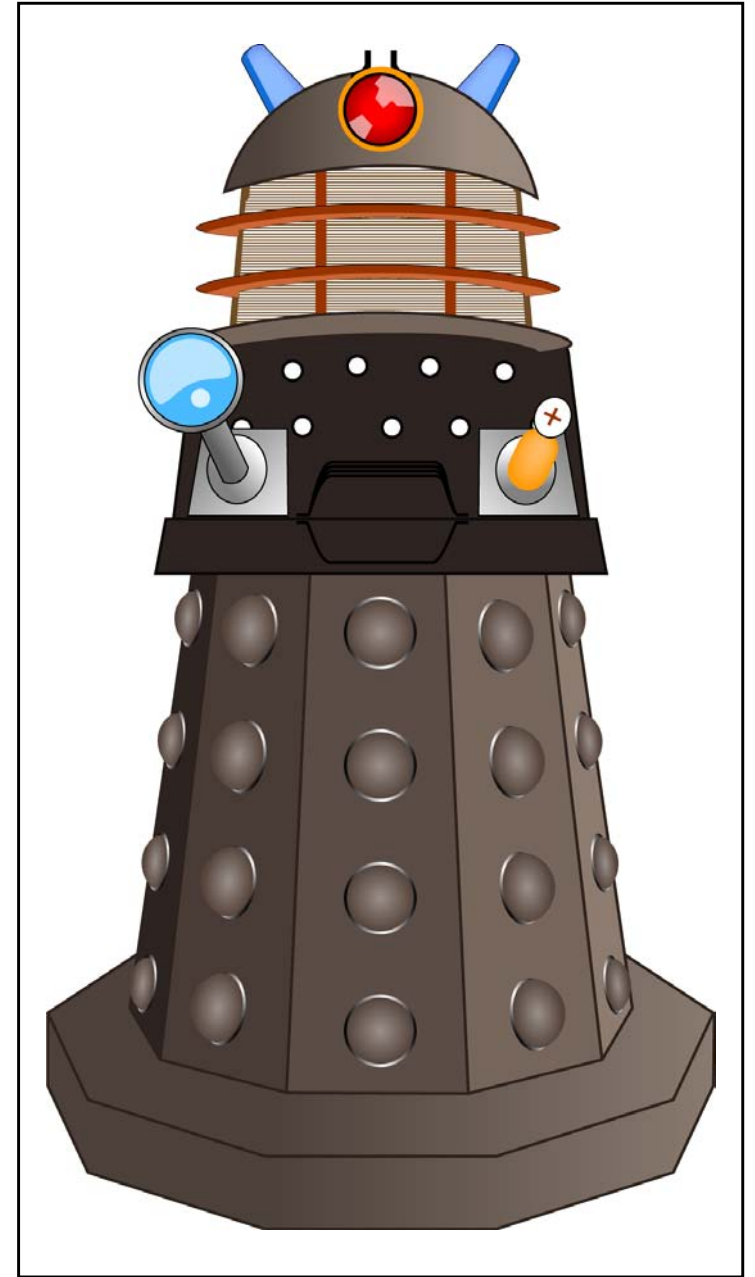


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24.09 Minds and Machines
Fall 2011

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