

ABSTRACT

The Metaphysics of Information

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This thesis examines the statement; "information exists and has properties."

The world we experience is modeled as an information/matter duality, which is then examined to see if this model can be used to explain some of the problems that are discussed in metaphysics. This information/matter duality is very similar to Cartesian duality, but is broader and impacts on other problems such as those surrounding identity, change, induction, agent causality, language and logic. This makes it necessary to also develop and test a model of human information processing, as this may contribute to the metaphysical problems being considered.

The human brain is modeled as a composite of an emotional brain and a rational brain. The Turing machine is used as the rational model. This is not discussed as much work has already been done in this area. Instead, the model of the emotional brain is developed to compliment the Turing model along with a means of interfacing these two. A method of creating forms is described along with the effects these have on our thinking abilities. A mechanism for creating induction and semantic references is also discussed along with examples to show how this model could produce some of the effects that human brains produce.

These models are then used to examine several metaphysical problems, limiting this examination to the context of the relationship between matter and information. The concept of information feedback is discussed and shown have the same nature as an, "infinite regress." It creates stable entities and can account for the presence of the dynamic abstract "I" of Cartesian Dualism. A network theory of information is then developed.

Keywords: Metaphysics of Information; Iammai model; Abstraction process; Network theory of information; Open and closed systems; Information causality; Induction; Synthetic a priori.