When I perceive an apple, which of these two things am I? A brain? Or the apple?

It may seem bizarre to consider two things! Two objects... how vulgar! After all, aren't minds supposed to be different from things? And yet, is there anything but things?
THE MOST POPULAR choice is the brain. Yet, like the
emperor's new clothes, the brain is naked! The brain
is yet another object ...

I MEAN 'THINGS' because in nature everything is
a SPATIOTEMPORALLY entity made of MATTER/ENERGY
with a CAUSAL role; that is ... A THING!

AS A MATTER of fact, NEURAL activity is NEITHER like
one's MIND nor like one's WORLD!

AND ... AS REGARDS the mind, the brain
should COME OUT!

I AM A PHYSICAL OBJECT I THOUGHT I was SPECIAL,
but I am not!

FURTHERMORE, if objects had none
of experience's properties
are physical

THEN, the brain, being an object,
could have none either!

is physical too!

OH MY!!!

however, rather than
throw away the brain, let's consider
other physical candidates!
SO, LET US GET BACK TO THE ORIGINAL QUESTION! CONSIDER THE SIMPLEST CASE OF EXPERIENCE.

TAKE AN APPLE! WHAT’S SIMPLER THAN THAT?

LOOK CLOSELY AT THE APPLE YOU JUST GRABBED! ISN’T IT JUST LIKE YOUR EXPERIENCE OF IT?

ISN’T IT RED, ROUND, AND APPLISH?

ISN’T IT JUST LIKE THE CONSCIOUS PERCEPT?

So, let us get back to the original question! Consider the simplest case of experience.

Take an apple! What’s simpler than that?

Look closely at the apple you just grabbed! Isn’t it just like your experience of it?

Isn’t it red, round, and applish?

Isn’t it just like the conscious percept?

We have two things: the brain (1) and the apple (2)!

Which of them is one’s experience?

I don’t know a priori what experience is!

But...

If I free experience from the philo jargon, I am left with the apple I have in front of me!

So, let us get back to the original question! Consider the simplest case of experience.

Take an apple! What’s simpler than that?

Look closely at the apple you just grabbed! Isn’t it just like your experience of it?

Isn’t it red, round, and applish?

Isn’t it just like the conscious percept?

We have two things: the brain (1) and the apple (2)!

Which of them is one’s experience?

I don’t know a priori what experience is!

But...

If I free experience from the philo jargon, I am left with the apple I have in front of me!
Thus, if I contrast the experience of the apple with the apple, they are the same!

On the other hand, brain and the experience of the apple are completely different!

I can put back my brain in my skull: the brain is the only object I am not! I must be elsewhere!

Where am I then? Where is the experience of the apple?

One might put experience outside of the physical world, but it would be a non-starter.

Then, I am left with the only physical candidate: the object! A mind-object identity theory.

Or, surprisingly, here?

Here?

In short, the idea is that one's experience is the very object one experiences! Call it object bound.

Here?

Object = experience

I am the mind!!!

Object = experience

A mind-object identity theory.

Or, surprisingly, here?

Solution 1: Dualism

Solution 2: Brainbound

Solution 3: Objectbound!
Let's take a quantum leap! Leave behind the orthodox brain/body-centric view of reality and embrace a new stance. The center is no longer the body but the object!

The hypothesis is rather straightforward!

When I experience an object, the thing I am is the very object! It is a mind-object identity theory!

Wait a sec! I can't be the apple! I feel I am here! Inside my head! Behind my eyes and between my ears!

Nonsense! One does not feel where the mind is, one feels where the body is! More precisely, where sensory organs are.

Dennett showed how to debunk such a notion!
The brain plays a causal contingent role rather than a constitutive one! The object is one and the same with one’s experience.

Or consider a dam and its lake! The dam allows the lake to exist, yet the dam is not the lake!

Likewise, the object we perceive exists because our body allows it to take place.

The object/mind is like a lamp that turns on because of a switch. The light is not the switch, but it needs it.

There is no reason to prefer one side of the skin to the other. The external side is as good as the internal one!

The apple we perceive is not an ideal apple but the very apple we grab and eat!
Thus, we can finally overcome the dreaded subjective vs. objective gap (aka the hard problem)!

In fact, it is not by chance that the objects we perceive are only those that take place because of our bodies!

For instance, consider velocity, is it subjective or relative?

Am I still? Of course, I am still!

Yet, I'm also hurtling around the sun!

In physics, a body can have as many relative velocities as reference frames. Such velocities are not subjective, they are relative.

Likewise, some stuff can be as many different objects relatively to as many different physical systems are there.

The list of the properties of objects and the list of causal couplings between nature and our bodies is perfect.

All such velocities are real and are there in the object, no matter whether they are relative.

The so-called 'subjective' properties are just relative properties, like velocity.

In practice, an object is like a key, and the brain is like its lock!

Actually, the brain is more like a collection of locks.

For instance, consider velocity, is it subjective or relative?

Am I still? Of course, I am still!

Yet, I'm also hurtling around the sun!

In physics, a body can have as many relative velocities as reference frames. Such velocities are not subjective, they are relative.

Likewise, some stuff can be as many different objects relatively to as many different physical systems are there.

The so-called 'subjective' properties are just relative properties, like velocity.

In practice, an object is like a key, and the brain is like its lock!

Actually, the brain is more like a collection of locks.

For instance, consider velocity, is it subjective or relative?

Am I still? Of course, I am still!

Yet, I'm also hurtling around the sun!

In physics, a body can have as many relative velocities as reference frames. Such velocities are not subjective, they are relative.

Likewise, some stuff can be as many different objects relatively to as many different physical systems are there.

The so-called 'subjective' properties are just relative properties, like velocity.

In practice, an object is like a key, and the brain is like its lock!

Actually, the brain is more like a collection of locks.

For instance, consider velocity, is it subjective or relative?

Am I still? Of course, I am still!

Yet, I'm also hurtling around the sun!

In physics, a body can have as many relative velocities as reference frames. Such velocities are not subjective, they are relative.

Likewise, some stuff can be as many different objects relatively to as many different physical systems are there.

The so-called 'subjective' properties are just relative properties, like velocity.

In practice, an object is like a key, and the brain is like its lock!

Actually, the brain is more like a collection of locks.

For instance, consider velocity, is it subjective or relative?

Am I still? Of course, I am still!

Yet, I'm also hurtling around the sun!

In physics, a body can have as many relative velocities as reference frames. Such velocities are not subjective, they are relative.

Likewise, some stuff can be as many different objects relatively to as many different physical systems are there.

The so-called 'subjective' properties are just relative properties, like velocity.

In practice, an object is like a key, and the brain is like its lock!

Actually, the brain is more like a collection of locks.

For instance, consider velocity, is it subjective or relative?

Am I still? Of course, I am still!

Yet, I'm also hurtling around the sun!

In physics, a body can have as many relative velocities as reference frames. Such velocities are not subjective, they are relative.

Likewise, some stuff can be as many different objects relatively to as many different physical systems are there.

The so-called 'subjective' properties are just relative properties, like velocity.

In practice, an object is like a key, and the brain is like its lock!

Actually, the brain is more like a collection of locks.

For instance, consider velocity, is it subjective or relative?

Am I still? Of course, I am still!

Yet, I'm also hurtling around the sun!

In physics, a body can have as many relative velocities as reference frames. Such velocities are not subjective, they are relative.

Likewise, some stuff can be as many different objects relatively to as many different physical systems are there.

The so-called 'subjective' properties are just relative properties, like velocity.
TO RECAP, THE THING THAT I AM IS NOT MY BODY WALKING IN THE WORLD.


IF THE MIND IS THE OBJECT, NATURE PROVIDES EVERYTHING WE NEED. EVERYTHING IS A THING. WE ONLY HAVE TO SET ASIDE OUR PAROCHIAL PREJUDICES ABOUT BEING INSIDE OUR BODIES! I CALL THIS VIEW, THE SPREAD MIND THEORY.

IS IT REALLY SO CRAZY?

THANK YOU!

© Riccardo Manzotti, 2016
IULM University, Milan
www.thespreadmind.com
www.consciousness.it
riccardo.manzotti@gmail.com