

Consciousness of Unification: The Mind-Matter ‘Phallacy’ Bites the Dust

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Science never advances in a philosophical or conceptual vacuum. Even the unification of relativity and the quantum is not enough to yield a new physics for the future because it fails to deal directly with a far more fundamental duality that needs further clarification – the difference between reality and the mind perceiving reality in which consciousness plays a central role. So consciousness can no longer be ignored, even in objective physics. In modern physics the encroachment of physics (Matter) into the Cartesian realm of Mind is clearly evident in the quantum mechanical dictum that consciousness collapses the wave packet to create material reality. Since the collapsed wave packet represents an ever renewing reality, it should be evident that the concept of mind has found a new and significant role in physics that necessitates explanation before physics can truly advance beyond the present quantum paradigm. Too many scientists believe that ‘classical’ or non-quantum physics is incapable and unnecessary for explaining mind and consciousness, which is another of the great modern ‘phallacies of fysics’. Since the human brain and the neural correlates of consciousness have only been studied in the greatest of detail within the past few decades while the only serious attempts to explain mind with classical physics occurred a century ago, the commonly held conclusion that ‘classical’ physics has no place in explaining consciousness has no real basis. Once such prejudices are identified and overcome, explaining consciousness is not that difficult and a new model based on recent findings regarding the neural correlates of consciousness rather than philosophical ideologies and priorities has emerged. A living body is just a complex pattern of energetic particle exchanges to physicists as compared to the biochemical processes studied by chemists and biologists, so this new model is based on the simple fact that life is an emergent complex matter/energy field pattern as described by quantized space-time curvature. Mind can then be modeled as a multi-leveled emergent complexity pattern (scalar potential) of the electric field associated with a living organism and consciousness becomes a multi-leveled emergent complexity pattern (vector potential domains) of the magnetic field corresponding to the mind. All living organisms display mind and consciousness at varying levels of complexity, not just humans. Mind and consciousness have mistakenly become associated with the human brain and no other part of the body because of the dense concentration of neurons in the brain. In other words, electrical activity is more intense and highly regulated, better ordered and more coherent within the brain than it is elsewhere in the body or organism. A strict study of the magnetic vector potential field patterns associated with neural microtubules, neurons and neural nets indicates how individual and streams of thought originate in the brain and are stored magnetically as memories. Microtubules, which are in fact classical bio-magnetic induction coils, are the primary structural bio-units that guide the storage and retrieval of memories in the mind (the electric field pattern) to create consciousness (the multi-leveled magnetic field pattern) through the quantum spin states of water molecules in the neurons. Once each complexity pattern emerges it reinforces and modifies the next lower complexity pattern for greater efficiency and survival of the living organism as a whole. Since neural nets are not fixed and indeed alter themselves internally as new learning and experience influence the brain in a process called brain plasticity, this model implies that evolution can also proceed according to a top-down model whereby consciousness evolves mind and mind evolves the body to alter DNA. Yet this concept flies directly in the face of accepted physics because the increasing order that results from continuing evolution would be impossible under the current laws of thermodynamics, which simply state that entropy (disorder or chaos) always increases with time. So modern thermodynamics must be inadequate to describe our understanding of nature and is thus incomplete. Four additional laws are easily found to complete the physics of thermodynamics and solve the duality problems between increasing disorder (entropy) and increasing order (evolution). When completed, the new thermodynamics includes the evolution of all physical systems, in which life is just one form of specialized system, and evolution becomes the true physical ‘arrow of time’.