Theoretical.

On Consciousness as a Sense

A Communication of the Intractable Studies Institute

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Definitions of Consciousness

Consciousness has several conflicting definitions. The definition we will solve here includes: def - ***The state of being characterized by sensation, emotion, volition, thought, and awareness of something within oneself.***

Analysis

From the Communication "Pretty Good Sentience" we see that sensor input of red, green and blue light into the eye are 1) detected, and equally or more importantly are 2) sensed as a color. These are the 3 primary colors the human eye can sense. Additionally the human eye can sense night vision brightness, which mostly lacks colors, it's more black and white brightness. It is seemingly impossible to present externally what a persons sensation of a color like red is, except to compare to other things that match redness. Everyone, except for color-blind people, agrees the crayon labeled red is red, so people can communicate sensed colors to each other. But nobody knows if a persons sensation of redness is actually the same as another persons.

For the 3 primary colors red, green and blue, that detection of the color and sensation are as described above. The color yellow does not follow this mechanism. There is no yellow color receptor in the human eye. Somewhere in the brain there is a logical function for red AND green, and when both are present at equal level, the resulting color of that pixel is called yellow. Clearly, whereas RGB colors were directly mapped from the cone receptors, the color yellow is completely invented by the brain. Just as RGB, nobody can be sure that what one person senses as yellow is the same as what another senses, but they can agree that the crayon labeled yellow is yellow. The color white is the logical red AND green AND blue at equal and bright levels. **A sensory neuron is excited and a color is sensed in the mind**.

From this analysis of non-primary colors we can conclude that the human mind is able to manufacture the sensation of colors. If the human eye had a 4th color receptor U, then another primary color distinct from the other 3 would exist. But would white continue to be AND_EQUAL(RGB), or AND_EQUAL(RGBU)?

If the mind can manufacture colors, it seems likely it can manufacture tastes and smells and other senses, as the principle is the same: sensors detect input, that goes to the sensory neurons and there are primary senses and secondary combinations sensed.

Conclusion

This can be generalized: In the mind, a sensory neuron fires and a sensation occurs, whether color, taste, smell, etc. There is nothing that would rule out a special sensor that when fired produces the **sense of consciousness**! This is distinguished from other senses as it's source is internal, not external. The logical function could be sense of:

Consciousness = OR(Thought,Emotion,Volition,Introspection)
C = OR(TEVI)

Source	Destination	Sense
Photon → eye cone	Neuron(s)	Primary color R,G,B
Neurons R and G	Neuron(s)	Abstract color, Yellow
Neurons AND_EQ(RGB)	Neuron(s)	Abstract white
Air vibrations → ear	Neuron(s)	Sound, direction
Chemical → tongue	Neuron(s)	Taste
Vapor → nostril	Neuron(s)	Smell
Neurons OR(TEVI)	Neuron(s)	Consciousness

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