

# Mind over Matter in a Physical World

The “mental causation” problem and a solution

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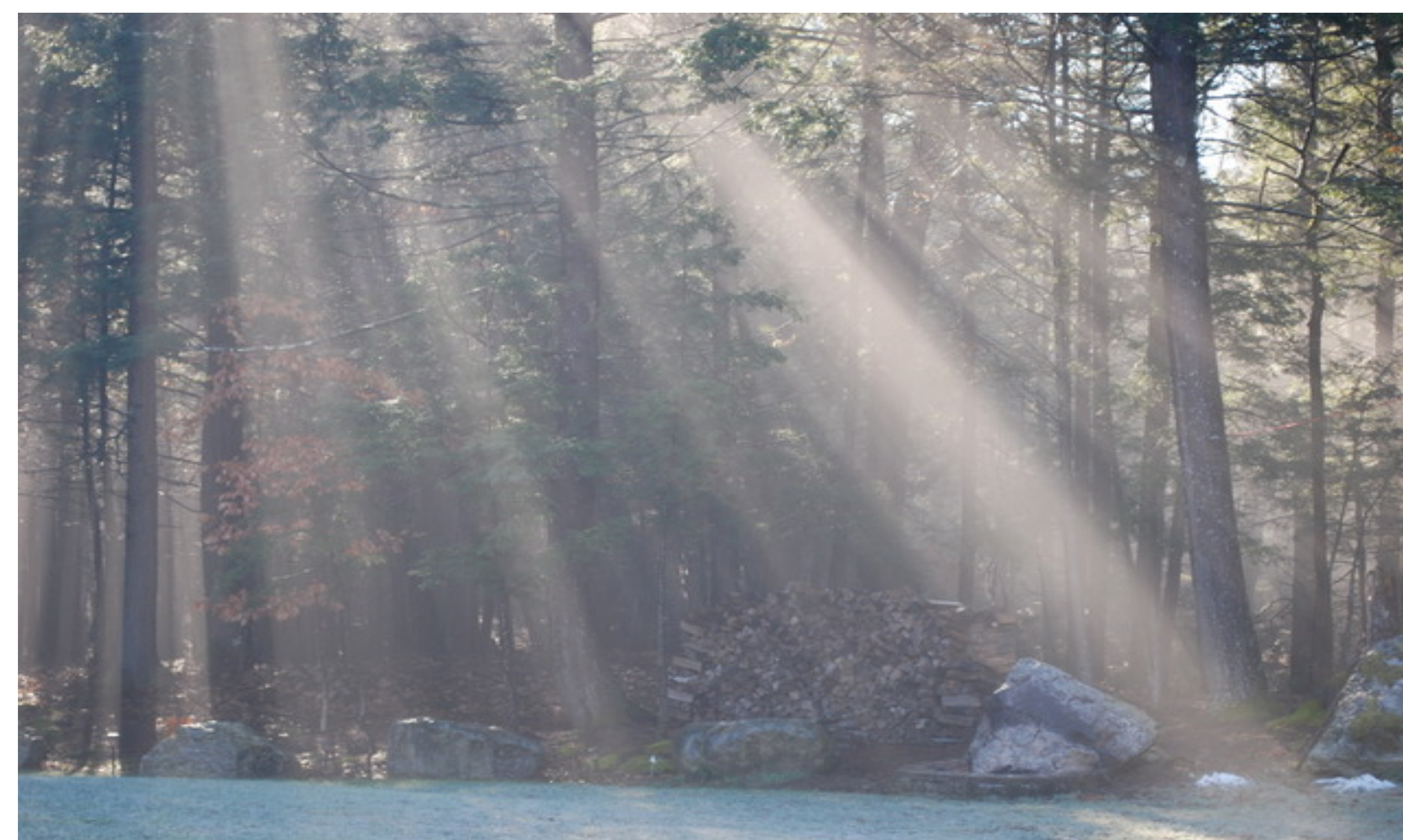


## The world is a physical machine

### Lucretius (48 BCE)

1. Nothing comes from nothing
2. Nothing is ever completely destroyed
3. Ordinary things like kings and cabbages are created and destroyed all the time
4. Therefore ordinary things, and the entire world, are made of indestructible “atoms”

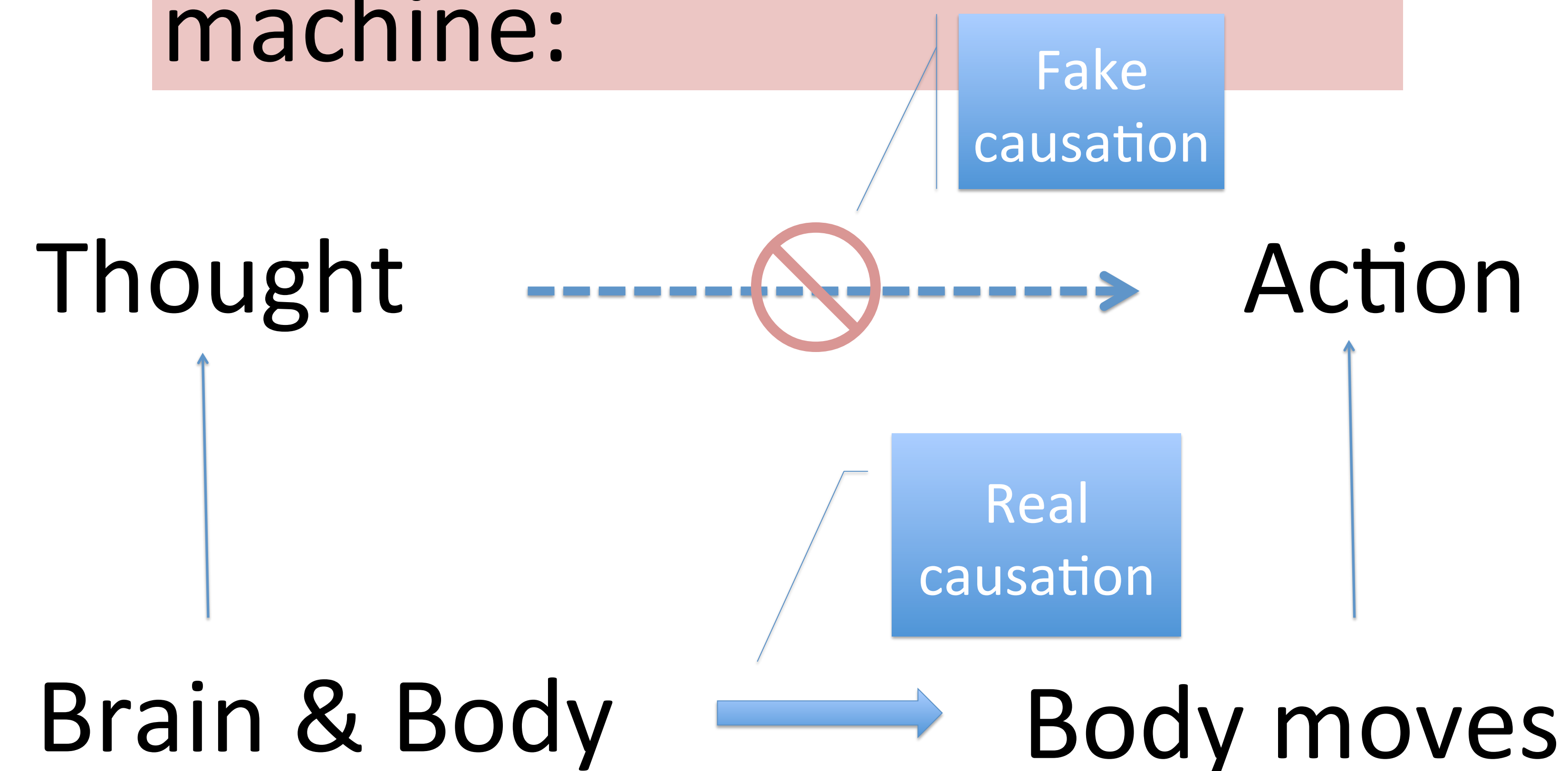
“Observe what happens when sunbeams are admitted into a building and shed light on its shadowy places. You will see a multitude of tiny particles mingling in a multitude of ways... their dancing is an actual indication of underlying movements of matter that are hidden from our sight”



### Einstein (1906)

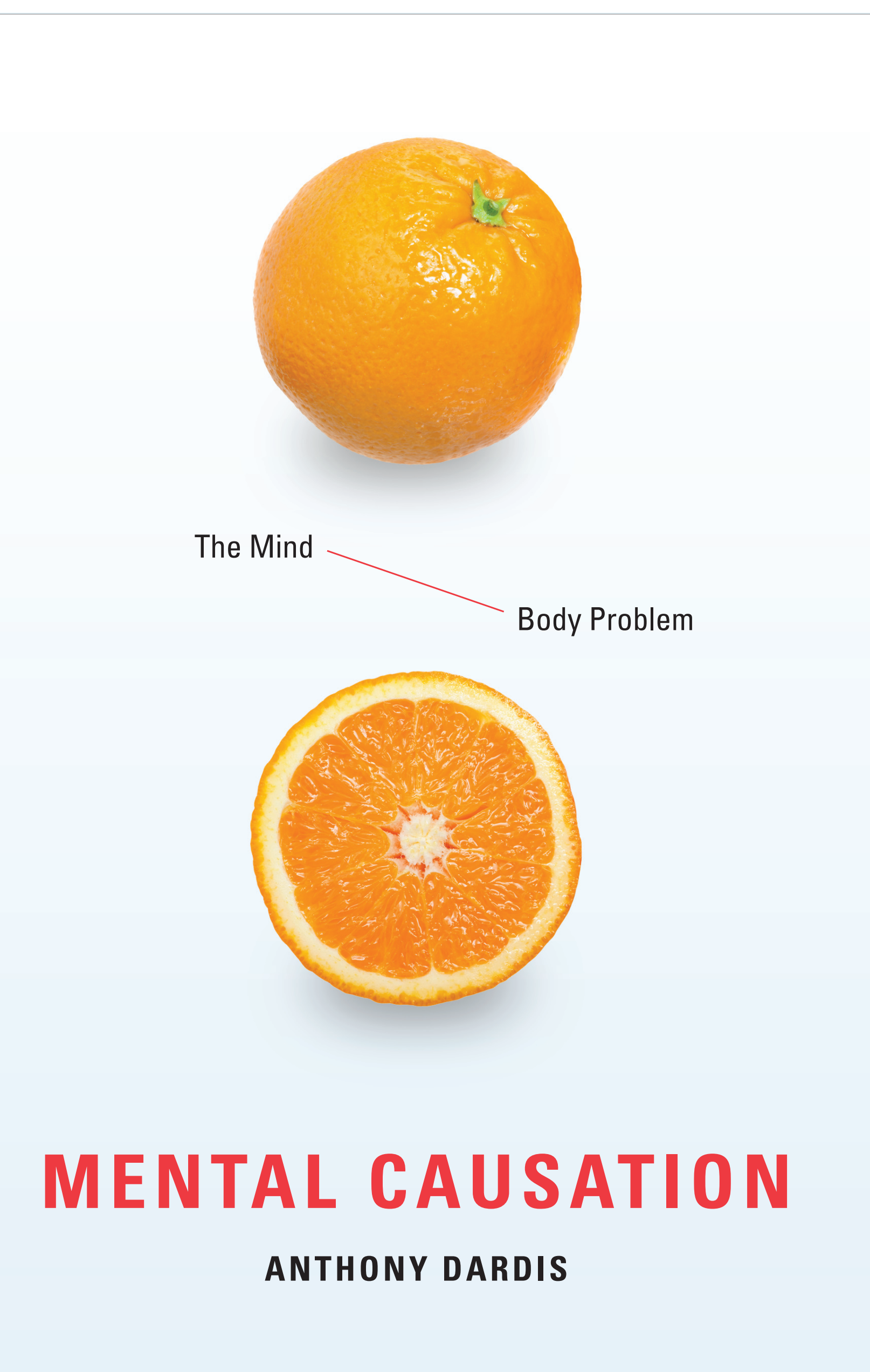
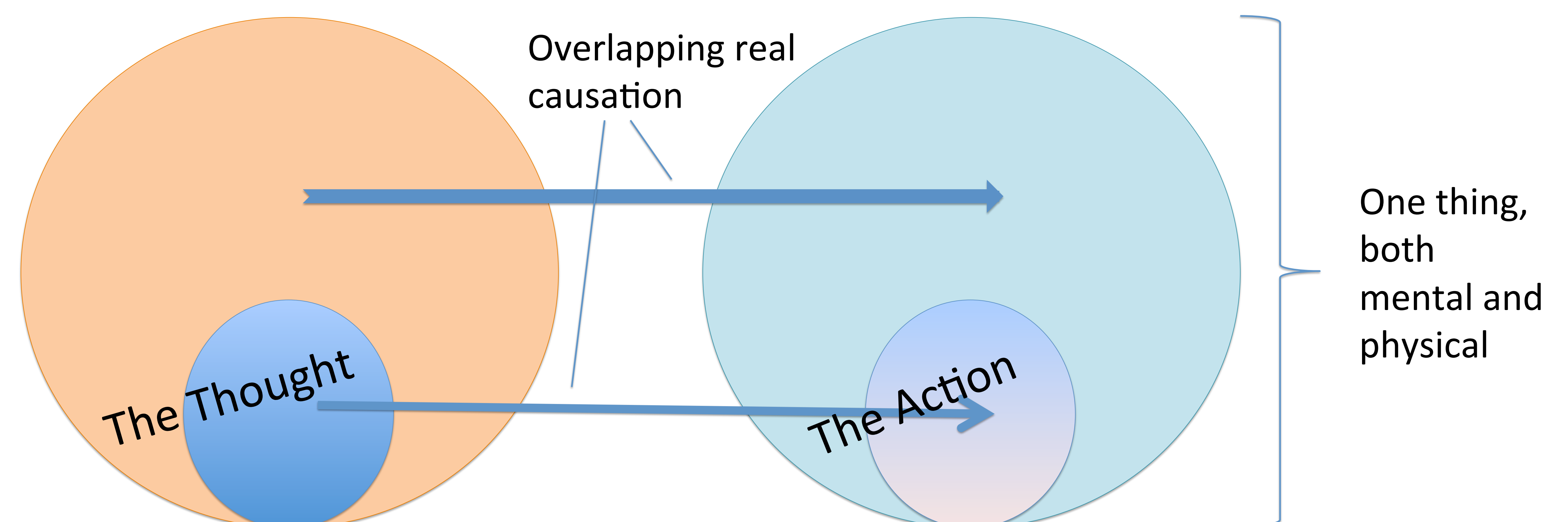
1. Math: how Brownian motion relates to size of particles
2. Physics: measure Brownian motion
3. Calculate: the size of the atoms in this configuration

But it's not a mental machine:



Unless:

## Mental/physical Overlap



Dardis, Anthony. *Mental Causation: The Mind-Body Problem*. Columbia University Press, New York, 2008.