

1: Occam's Razor (Joe Gunther Series, Vol. 10): Archer Mayor: www.enganchecubano.com: Books

Occam's razor (also Ockham's razor or Ocham's razor; Latin: lex parsimoniae "law of parsimony") is the problem-solving principle that the simplest solution tends to be the correct one. When presented with competing hypotheses to solve a problem, one should select the solution with the fewest assumptions.

Book , Photography Leave a Comment Bill Jay is a favourite writer, partly because of his acute insight into photographers as opposed to photography , but mainly because of his love of making things clear and writing in plain English. An outside-in-view of Contemporary Photographer I took it on holiday, recently, and re-read it. We have legitimized, sanitized, academized the medium until we are left with issues not substance, critical stances not action.. The Photographic Life of Bill Jay. Where did the title come from? Entia non sunt multiplicanda praeter necessitatem. More things should not be used than are necessary. She was very reluctant to speak, though by answering an odd question Jay gets her to open up and relax. Both are typical of his interest in photographers as people, though frankly add little to photographic enlightenment. Books and movies are always depicting photojournalists as hustlers and voyeurs. No, of course not. Photographers are also paranoid, aggressive and utterly selfish. Like Sontag said; all photographers are sublimated rapists and murderers. His conclusions are clear and practical. This was staged by Edward Steichen for MoMa in Critics noted it as being overly sugary, epitomising an idealised America? In essence, the exhibition suffered the challenges of all documentary photography, and highlighted the curation process as a constant battle. Over two million photographs were submitted from across the world. It was shown at 69 venues in 37 countries, as well as numerous US cities. In the context of the post-World War II years, a little hope and positiveness went a long way. And that is why the exhibition is so unsettling to photographers. Eugene Smith were poignant and inspirational. Smith was suicidal, and crying out for help in long distance phone calls. In a January, letter to Jay, Smith writes: There they created a long-term photo-essay on Minamata disease , the effects of mercury poisoning caused by a Chisso factory discharging heavy metals into water sources around Minamata. The photograph depicts a mother cradling her severely deformed, naked daughter in a traditional Japanese bathing chamber. In the process of creating Minamata, Smith was severely beaten up by company employees. Core Principles in Research. University of Texas Press. Eugene Smith William of Ockham mick yates - a passionate photographer all his life - contact for candid portraiture, events, documentary, and street stories. I aim to delight and challenge my audiences with engaging and creative story-telling. Having travelled and worked all over the world, my photography is informed by my view that we are all more the same than we are different - yet those differences reveal unique stories. Whilst life is always in motion, every moment creates a sense of place or personality. My craft includes both narration the story and curation the moment in which the image is taken. I always deliver my work to the best standard that I know how - technically, artistically, respectfully and ethically.

2: Occam's razor - Wikipedia

Occam's razor is sometimes used against conspiracy www.enganchecubano.com, it's skeptics who lock horns with conspiracy theorists, using the razor as proof that conspiracists are too far-reaching in their explanations.

Life[edit] William of Ockham was born in Ockham, Surrey in and joined the Franciscan order at an early age. In , his commentary was condemned as unorthodox by a synod of bishops,[citation needed] and he was ordered to Avignon , France, to defend himself before a papal court. A theological commission had been asked to review his Commentary on the Sentences, and it was during this that William of Ockham found himself involved in a different debate. Michael of Cesena had asked William to review arguments surrounding Apostolic poverty. The Franciscans believed that Jesus and his apostles owned no property either individually or in common, and the Rule of Saint Francis commanded members of the order to follow this practice. In return for protection and patronage William wrote treatises that argued for emperor Louis to have supreme control over church and state in the Holy Roman Empire. William of Ockham died prior to the outbreak of the plague on 9 April Faith and reason[edit] William of Ockham espoused fideism , stating that "only faith gives us access to theological truths. The ways of God are not open to reason, for God has freely chosen to create a world and establish a way of salvation within it apart from any necessary laws that human logic or rationality can uncover. William incorporated much of the work of some previous theologians, especially Duns Scotus. From Duns Scotus, William of Ockham derived his view of divine omnipotence, his view of grace and justification, much of his epistemology[citation needed] and ethical convictions [22]. Nominalism[edit] William of Ockham was a pioneer of nominalism , and some consider him the father of modern epistemology , because of his strongly argued position that only individuals exist, rather than supra-individual universals , essences, or forms, and that universals are the products of abstraction from individuals by the human mind and have no extra-mental existence. William of Ockham is sometimes considered an advocate of conceptualism rather than nominalism, for whereas nominalists held that universals were merely names, i. Therefore, the universal concept has for its object, not a reality existing in the world outside us, but an internal representation which is a product of the understanding itself and which "supposes" in the mind the things to which the mind attributes it; that is, it holds, for the time being, the place of the things which it represents. It is the term of the reflective act of the mind. Hence the universal is not a mere word, as Roscelin taught, nor a sermo, as Peter Abelard held, namely the word as used in the sentence, but the mental substitute for real things, and the term of the reflective process. For this reason William has sometimes also been called a "terminist", to distinguish him from a nominalist or a conceptualist. He was criticized for this belief by his fellow theologians and philosophers. This maxim, as interpreted by Bertrand Russell , [26] states that if one can explain a phenomenon without assuming this or that hypothetical entity, there is no ground for assuming it, i. He thus does not accept the principle of sufficient reason , rejects the distinction between essence and existence, and opposes the Thomistic doctrine of active and passive intellect. His scepticism to which his ontological parsimony request leads appears in his doctrine that human reason can prove neither the immortality of the soul; nor the existence, unity, and infinity of God. These truths, he teaches, are known to us by revelation alone. Mathematics must be applied to other categories, such as the categories of substance or qualities, thus anticipating modern scientific renaissance while violating Aristotelian prohibition of metabasis. Theory of knowledge[edit] In the theory of knowledge, William rejected the scholastic theory of species, as unnecessary and not supported by experience, in favour of a theory of abstraction. This was an important development in late medieval epistemology. He also distinguished between intuitive and abstract cognition; intuitive cognition depends on the existence or non-existence of the object, whereas abstractive cognition "abstracts" the object from the existence predicate. Interpreters are, as yet, undecided about the roles of these two types of cognitive activities. His political ideas are regarded as "natural" or "secular", holding for a secular absolutism. He thought that the pope and churchmen have no right or grounds at all for secular rule like having property, citing 2 Tim. That belongs solely to earthly rulers, who may also accuse the pope of crimes, if need be. Thus he preceded Thomas Hobbes in formulating social contract theory along with earlier scholars.

His contributions to semantics , especially to the maturing theory of supposition , are still studied by logicians. Only in very few of these cases is it possible to demonstrate direct links to William of Ockham or his texts. Works[edit] The standard edition of the philosophical and theological works is: The Franciscan Institute , â€” The seventh volume of the Opera Philosophica contains the doubtful and spurious works. The political works, all but the Dialogus, have been edited in H. Guilelmi de Ockham Opera Politica, 4 vols. Manchester University Press [vols. Oxford University Press [vol. Summa logicae Sum of Logic c. Expositionis in Libros artis logicae prooemium, â€”24, OP 2. Expositio in librum Porphyrii de Praedicabilibus, â€”24, OP 2. Expositio in librum Praedicamentorum Aristotelis, â€”24, OP 2. Expositio in librum in librum Perihermenias Aristotelis, â€”24, OP 2. Expositio in libros Physicorum Aristotelis. Quaestiones variae OT 8. Quodlibeta septem before , OT 9. Tractatus de quantitate â€” Tractatus de corpore Christi â€”24, OT

3: Occam's razor - Wikiquote

Occam's Razor and the Los Angeles Rams October 1, Leave a comment Los Angeles Rams By Dave Archibald The Los Angeles Rams showed the most dramatic offensive turnaround in the history of the NFL in , more than doubling their point total (to) as they jumped from the 32nd-ranked offense to number one.

Libert Froidmont , in his *On Christian Philosophy of the Soul*, takes credit for the phrase, speaking of "novacula occami". Marianus Fernandez Garcia , p. AD stated, "We consider it a good principle to explain the phenomena by the simplest hypothesis possible. For if one thing were demonstrated from many and another thing from fewer equally known premises, clearly that is better which is from fewer because it makes us know quickly, just as a universal demonstration is better than particular because it produces knowledge from fewer premises. Similarly in natural science, in moral science, and in metaphysics the best is that which needs no premises and the better that which needs the fewer, other circumstances being equal. William of Ockham[edit] William of Ockham circa 1287" was an English Franciscan friar and theologian , an influential medieval philosopher and a nominalist. The term razor refers to distinguishing between two hypotheses either by "shaving away" unnecessary assumptions or cutting apart two similar conclusions. Nevertheless, the precise words sometimes attributed to William of Ockham, *Entia non sunt multiplicanda praeter necessitatem* Entities must not be multiplied beyond necessity , [16] are absent in his extant works; [17] this particular phrasing comes from John Punch , [18] who described the principle as a "common axiom" *axioma vulgare* of the Scholastics. Later formulations[edit] To quote Isaac Newton , "We are to admit no more causes of natural things than such as are both true and sufficient to explain their appearances. Therefore, to the same natural effects we must, as far as possible, assign the same causes. The only assumption is that the environment follows some unknown but computable probability distribution. This notion was deeply rooted in the aesthetic value that simplicity holds for human thought and the justifications presented for it often drew from theology. Thomas Aquinas made this argument in the 13th century, writing, "If a thing can be done adequately by means of one, it is superfluous to do it by means of several; for we observe that nature does not employ two instruments [if] one suffices. In the related concept of overfitting , excessively complex models are affected by statistical noise a problem also known as the bias-variance trade-off , whereas simpler models may capture the underlying structure better and may thus have better predictive performance. It is, however, often difficult to deduce which part of the data is noise cf. The procedure to test the former interpretation would compare the track records of simple and comparatively complex explanations. Possible explanations can become needlessly complex. Some increases in complexity are sometimes necessary. So there remains a justified general bias toward the simpler of two competing explanations. To understand why, consider that for each accepted explanation of a phenomenon, there is always an infinite number of possible, more complex, and ultimately incorrect, alternatives. This is so because one can always burden a failing explanation with an ad hoc hypothesis. Ad hoc hypotheses are justifications that prevent theories from being falsified. Even other empirical criteria, such as consilience , can never truly eliminate such explanations as competition. Each true explanation, then, may have had many alternatives that were simpler and false, but also an infinite number of alternatives that were more complex and false. But if an alternative ad hoc hypothesis were indeed justifiable, its implicit conclusions would be empirically verifiable. On a commonly accepted repeatability principle, these alternative theories have never been observed and continue to escape observation. Put another way, any new, and even more complex, theory can still possibly be true. For example, if an individual makes supernatural claims that leprechauns were responsible for breaking a vase, the simpler explanation would be that he is mistaken, but ongoing ad hoc justifications e. None of the papers provided a balance of evidence that complexity of method improved forecast accuracy. In the 25 papers with quantitative comparisons, complexity increased forecast errors by an average of 27 percent. By definition, all assumptions introduce possibilities for error; if an assumption does not improve the accuracy of a theory, its only effect is to increase the probability that the overall theory is wrong. MacKay in chapter 28 of his book *Information Theory, Inference, and Learning Algorithms*, [36] where he emphasizes that a prior bias in favour of simpler models is not required.

Jefferys and James O. This, again, reflects the mathematical relationship between key concepts in Bayesian inference namely marginal probability, conditional probability, and posterior probability. Our preference for simplicity may be justified by its falsifiability criterion: The idea here is that a simple theory applies to more cases than a more complex one, and is thus more easily falsifiable. This is again comparing a simple theory to a more complex theory where both explain the data equally well. Elliott Sober [edit] The philosopher of science Elliott Sober once argued along the same lines as Popper, tying simplicity with "informativeness": The simplest theory is the more informative, in the sense that it requires less information to answer a question. He now believes that simplicity considerations and considerations of parsimony in particular do not count unless they reflect something more fundamental. Philosophers, he suggests, may have made the error of hypostatizing simplicity. If we fail to justify simplicity considerations on the basis of the context in which we use them, we may have no non-circular justification: Since it is absurd to have no logical method for settling on one hypothesis amongst an infinite number of equally data-compliant hypotheses, we should choose the simplest theory: From the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*: They must both possess the same logical mathematical multiplicity. It simply says that unnecessary elements in a symbolism mean nothing. Signs which serve one purpose are logically equivalent; signs which serve no purpose are logically meaningless. Future positions of the sun, moon and other solar system bodies can be calculated using a geocentric model the earth is at the centre or using a heliocentric model the sun is at the centre. Both work, but the geocentric model arrives at the same conclusions through a much more complex system of calculations than the heliocentric model. An often-quoted version of this constraint which cannot be verified as posited by Einstein himself [47] says "Everything should be kept as simple as possible, but not simpler. However, science has shown repeatedly that future data often support more complex theories than do existing data. Science prefers the simplest explanation that is consistent with the data available at a given time, but the simplest explanation may be ruled out as new data become available. Several background assumptions are required for parsimony to connect with plausibility in a particular research problem. The reasonableness of parsimony in one research context may have nothing to do with its reasonableness in another. It is a mistake to think that there is a single global principle that spans diverse subject matter. There is little empirical evidence that the world is actually simple or that simple accounts are more likely to be true than complex ones. One can argue for atomic building blocks for matter, because it provides a simpler explanation for the observed reversibility of both mixing and chemical reactions as simple separation and rearrangements of atomic building blocks. At the time, however, the atomic theory was considered more complex because it implied the existence of invisible particles that had not been directly detected. At the time, however, all known waves propagated through a physical medium, and it seemed simpler to postulate the existence of a medium than to theorize about wave propagation without a medium. In this case, as it turned out, neither the wave nor the particle explanation alone suffices, as light behaves like waves and like particles. Three axioms presupposed by the scientific method are realism the existence of objective reality, the existence of natural laws, and the constancy of natural law. Rather than depend on provability of these axioms, science depends on the fact that they have not been objectively falsified. The general principle of science is that theories or models of natural law must be consistent with repeatable experimental observations. This ultimate arbiter selection criterion rests upon the axioms mentioned above. Simplicity principles are useful philosophical preferences for choosing a more likely theory from among several possibilities that are all consistent with available data. If multiple models of natural law make exactly the same testable predictions, they are equivalent and there is no need for parsimony to choose a preferred one. For example, Newtonian, Hamiltonian and Lagrangian classical mechanics are equivalent. Likewise, there is no demand for simplicity principles to arbitrate between wave and matrix formulations of quantum mechanics. Science often does not demand arbitration or selection criteria between models that make the same testable predictions. Williams in his book *Adaptation and Natural Selection* argues that the best way to explain altruism among animals is based on low-level individual selection. Altruism is defined by some evolutionary biologists as behavior that is beneficial to others or to the group at a cost to the individual, and many posit individual selection as the mechanism that explains altruism solely in terms of the behaviors of individual organisms acting in their own self-interest or in the interest of their genes, via kin selection. Williams was

arguing against the perspective of others who propose selection at the level of the group as an evolutionary mechanism that selects for altruistic traits. Dawkins argues the way evolution works is that the genes propagated in most copies end up determining the development of that particular species. Zoology provides an example. Muskoxen, when threatened by wolves, form a circle with the males on the outside and the females and young on the inside. This is an example of a behavior by the males that seems to be altruistic. The behavior is disadvantageous to them individually but beneficial to the group as a whole and was thus seen by some to support the group selection theory. Another interpretation is kin selection: Engaging in this behavior would be favored by individual selection if the cost to the male musk ox is less than half of the benefit received by his calf which could easily be the case if wolves have an easier time killing calves than adult males. It could also be the case that male musk oxen would be individually less likely to be killed by wolves if they stood in a circle with their horns pointing out, regardless of whether they were protecting the females and offspring. That would be an example of regular natural selection a phenomenon called "the selfish herd".

Systematics is the branch of biology that attempts to establish patterns of genealogical relationship among biological taxa. It is also concerned with their classification. There are three primary camps in systematics: The cladists hold that genealogy alone should determine classification, pheneticists contend that overall similarity is the determining criterion, while evolutionary taxonomists say that both genealogy and similarity count in classification. Cladistic parsimony or maximum parsimony is a method of phylogenetic inference in the construction of types of phylogenetic trees more specifically, cladograms. Cladograms are branching, tree-like structures used to represent hypotheses of relative degree of relationship, based on shared, derived character states. Cladistic parsimony is used to select as the preferred hypothesis of relationships the cladogram that requires the fewest implied character state transformations. Critics of the cladistic approach often observe that for some types of tree, parsimony consistently produces the wrong results, regardless of how much data is collected this is called statistical inconsistency, or long branch attraction. However, this criticism is also potentially true for any type of phylogenetic inference, unless the model used to estimate the tree reflects the way that evolution actually happened. Because this information is not empirically accessible, the criticism of statistical inconsistency against parsimony holds no force. Parsimony, Evolution, and Inference

Other methods for inferring evolutionary relationships use parsimony in a more traditional way. Likelihood methods for phylogeny use parsimony as they do for all likelihood tests, with hypotheses requiring few differing parameters. Thus, complex hypotheses must predict data much better than do simple hypotheses before researchers reject the simple hypotheses. He advances the argument that because biological systems are the products of an ongoing natural selection, the mechanisms are not necessarily optimal in an obvious sense. It is thus very rash to use simplicity and elegance as a guide in biological research. Given the phylogenetic tree, ancestral migrations are inferred to be those that require the minimum amount of total movement.

4: What had happen' was Terminology Tuesday: Occam's Razor - Apologetics

Occam's razor (also known as the 'law of parsimony') is a problem-solving principle which serves as a useful mental model. A philosophical razor is a tool used to eliminate improbable options in a given situation, of which Occam's is the best-known example.

Edit The aforementioned problem of underdetermination poses a serious obstacle to applications of the scientific method. The primary activity of science – formulating theories and selecting the most promising ones – is impossible without a way of choosing among an arbitrarily large number of theories, all of which fit with the evidence equally well. If any one principle could single-handedly reduce all these infinite possibilities to find the one best theory, at first glance one might deduce that the whole of scientific method simply follows from it, and thus that it alone would be sufficient to power the whole process of hypothesis formulation and rejection scientists undertake. However, there is more to the scientific method than analyzing data - processes of collecting data, pre-existing mind frames, well-accepted hypotheses and even axioms that may or may not actually correspond with reality, and the vague nature of scientific community consensus all play a very significant role in the process of scientific inquiry, perhaps more significant in practice than many of the finer points of inductive logic Thomas Kuhn outright rejected induction as the main driving force of the scientific method altogether in favor of paradigm shifts. Aside from that, the common statement of "the simplest explanation tends to be the best" cannot be properly evaluated for scientific purposes unless sharpened into a particular brand by a significant degree of formal precision; it is certainly possible to formulate a set of ground rules for the procedure and operation of such a razor that will be utterly useless or sorely lacking when tackling a particular set of data see below, "probability theory". Albert Einstein probably had this in mind when he wrote in that "The supreme goal of all theory is to make the irreducible basic elements as simple and as few as possible without having to surrender the adequate representation of a single datum of experience" often paraphrased as "Theories should be as simple as possible, but no simpler. In light of this, the popular rephrasing of the razor - "The simplest explanation is the best one" - can lead to a gross oversimplification when the word simple is taken at face value. One is ontological reduction by elimination and the other is by intertheoretic competition. In the former case the following are examples of reduction by elimination: The impetus of Aristotelian Physics , the angelic motors of medieval celestial mechanics , the four humors of ancient and medieval medicine, demonic possession as an explanation of mental illness, phlogiston theory from premodern chemistry, and vital spirits of premodern biology. In the latter case there are three examples from the history of science where the simpler of two competing theories each of which explains all the observed phenomena has been chosen over its ontologically bloated competitor: In the first example, the Copernican model is said to have been chosen over the Ptolemaic due to its greater simplicity. The Ptolemaic model, in order to explain the apparent retrograde motion of Mercury relative to Venus , posited the existence of epicycles within the orbit of Mercury. The Copernican model as expanded by Kepler was able to account for this motion by displacing the Earth from the center of the solar system and replacing it with the sun as the orbital focus of planetary motions while simultaneously replacing the circular orbits of the Ptolemaic model with elliptical ones. In addition the Copernican model excluded any mention of the crystalline spheres that the planets were thought to be embedded in according the Ptolemaic model. In a single stroke the Copernican model reduced by a factor of two the ontology of Astronomy. According to the Caloric theory of heat, heat is a weightless substance that can travel from one object to another. This theory arose from the study of cannon boring and the invention of the steam engine. It was while studying cannon boring that Count Rumford made observations that conflicted with the Caloric theory and he formulated his mechanical theory to replace it. The Mechanical theory eliminated the Caloric and was ontologically simpler than its predecessor. During the 19th century, physicists believed that light required a medium of transmission much as sound waves do. It was hypothesized that a universal aether was such a medium and much effort was expended to detect it. In one of the most famous negative experiments in the history of science, the Michelson-Morley experiment failed to find any evidence of its existence. Then when Einstein constructed his

theory of special relativity without any reference to the Aether this subsequently became the accepted view, thus providing another example of a theory chosen in part for its greater ontological simplicity. Williams in his book *Adaptation and Natural Selection* argues that the best way to explain altruism among animals is based on low level i. Altruism is defined as behavior that is beneficial to the group but not to the individual, and group selection is thought by some to be the evolutionary mechanism that selects for altruistic traits. Others posit individual selection as the mechanism which explains altruism solely in terms of the behaviors of individual organisms acting in their own self interest without regard to the group. Dawkins argues the way evolution works is that the genes that are propagated in most copies will end up determining the development of that particular species, i. Zoology provides an example. Musk oxen , when threatened by wolves , will form a circle with the males on the outside and the females and young on the inside. This as an example of a behavior by the males that seems to be altruistic. The behavior is disadvantageous to them individually but beneficial to the group as a whole and was thus seen by some to support the group selection theory. However, a much better explanation immediately offers itself once one considers that natural selection works on genes. If the male musk ox runs off, leaving his offspring to the wolves, his genes will not be propagated. If however he takes up the fight his genes will live on in his offspring. And thus the "stay-and-fight" gene prevails. This is an example of kin selection. An underlying general principle thus offers a much simpler explanation, without retreating to special principles as group selection. Systematics is the branch of biology that attempts to establish genealogical relationships among organisms. It is also concerned with their classification. There are three primary camps in systematics; cladists, pheneticists, and evolutionary taxonomists. The cladists hold that genealogy alone should determine classification and pheneticists contend that similarity over propinquity of descent is the determining criterion while evolutionary taxonomists claim that both genealogy and similarity count in classification. Cladistic parsimony or maximum parsimony is a method of phylogenetic inference in the construction of cladograms. Cladograms are branching, tree-like structures used to represent lines of descent based on one or more evolutionary change s. Cladistic parsimony is used to support the hypothesis es that require the fewest evolutionary changes. For some types of tree, it will consistently produce the wrong results regardless of how much data is collected this is called long branch attraction. Parsimony, Evolution, and Inference Other methods for inferring evolutionary relationships use parsimony in a more traditional way. Likelihood methods for phylogeny use parsimony as they do for all likelihood tests, with hypotheses requiring few differing parameters i. Thus, complex hypotheses must predict data much better than do simple hypotheses before researchers reject the simple hypotheses. He advances the argument that because biological systems are the products of an on-going natural selection, the mechanisms are not necessarily optimal in an obvious sense. It is thus very rash to use simplicity and elegance as a guide in biological research. Diagnostic parsimony advocates that when diagnosing a given injury, ailment, illness, or disease a doctor should strive to look for the fewest possible causes that will account for all the symptoms. It is often statistically more likely that a patient has several common diseases, rather than having a single rarer disease which explains the myriad of their symptoms. Also, independently of statistical likelihood, some patients do in fact turn out to have multiple diseases, which by common sense nullifies the approach of insisting to explain any given collection of symptoms with one disease. While the probability of multiple diseases being higher certainly reduces the degree to which this kind of analysis is useful, it does not go all the way to invalidating it altogether - even in such a patient, it would make more sense to first test a theory postulating three diseases to be the cause of the symptoms than a theory postulating seven. Philosophy of mind Edit Probably the first person to make use of the principle was Ockham himself. He writes "The source of many errors in philosophy is the claim that a distinct signified thing always corresponds to a distinct word in such a way that there are as many distinct entities being signified as there are distinct names or words doing the signifying. We are apt to suppose that a word like "paternity" signifies some "distinct entity", because we suppose that each distinct word signifies a distinct entity. This leads to all sorts of absurdities, such as "a column is to the right by to-the-rightness", "God is creating by creation, is good by goodness, is just by justice, is powerful by power", "an accident inheres by inherence", "a subject is subjected by subjection", "a suitable thing is suitable by suitability", "a chimera is nothing by nothingness", "a blind thing is blind by blindness", " a body is mobile by mobility". We should say

instead that a man is a father because he has a son Summa C. Another application of the principle is to be found in the work of George Berkeley – Berkeley was an idealist who believed that all of reality could be explained in terms of the mind alone. Dualists claim that there are two kinds of substances in the universe: In contrast identity theorists claim that everything is physical, including consciousness, and that there is nothing nonphysical. The basis for the materialist claim is that of the two competing theories, dualism and mind-brain identity, the identity theory is the simpler since it commits to fewer entities. Smart was criticized for his use of the razor and ultimately retracted his advocacy of it in this context. Many scientists, however, claim that this is exactly reversed. How Consciousness Creates the Material World , argues that "consciousness is the ground of all being. The deciding factor for Churchland is the greater explanatory prowess of a materialist position in the Philosophy of Mind as informed by findings in neurobiology. Eliminativism is the thesis that the ontology of folk psychology including such entities as "pain", "joy", "desire", "fear", etc. By definition, all assumptions introduce possibilities for error; If an assumption does not improve the accuracy of a theory, its only effect is to increase the probability that the overall theory is wrong. One of the problems with the original formulation of the principle is that it only applies to models with the same explanatory power i. These methods can sometimes optimally balance the complexity and power of a model. Many artificial intelligence researchers are now employing such techniques. Jefferys and James O. This, again, reflects the mathematical relationship between key concepts in Bayesian inference namely marginal probability , conditional probability and posterior probability. The statistical view leads to a more rigorous formulation of the razor than previous philosophical discussions. Subjective Razor Edit The Turing machine can be thought of as embodying a Bayesian prior belief over the space of rival theories. Objective Razor Edit The minimum instruction set of a Universal Turing machine requires approximately the same length description across different formulations, and is small compared to the Kolmogorov complexity of most practical theories. Marcus Hutter has used this consistency to define a "natural" Turing machine [1] of small size as the proper basis for excluding arbitrarily complex instruction sets in the formulation of razors. Though such a compressor does not seem practical to manufacture in the foreseeable future, the implications of its conception would be dramatic. This also applies to non est ponenda pluritas sine necessitate, which translates literally into English as "pluralities ought not be posited without necessity". It has inspired numerous expressions including "parsimony of postulates", the "principle of simplicity", the " KISS principle " Keep It Simple, Stupid , and in some medical schools "When you hear hoofbeats, think horses, not zebras ". Other common restatements are: Entities are not to be multiplied without necessity. His variant short-circuits the need for sophistication by equating it to simplicity. Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication. Of two equivalent theories or explanations, all other things being equal, the simpler one is to be preferred. We are to admit no more causes of natural things than such as are both true and sufficient to explain their appearances. The simplest explanation is usually the best. Another common statement of it is: The simplest explanation that covers all the facts. This is an over-simplification, or at least a little misleading. See above, " In science ". The earliest versions of the razor clearly imply that if a more complex theory is "necessary" then it need not be invalid. Perhaps a better way to state it is: Note that simplest theory is something like "only I exist" or "nothing exists". Simpler theories are preferable other things being equal.

5: 'Occam's Razor' magazine, packed with student writing, debuts at June 7 party

Bill Jay - Occam's Razor mickyates September 2, Book, Photography Leave a Comment Bill Jay () is a favourite writer, partly because of his acute insight into photographers (as opposed to photography), but mainly because of his love of making things clear and writing in plain English.

Carter notes that there is considerable common ground between the climate alarmists and the climate realists: The common ground, much of which was traversed by Dr. Hayhoe in her article, includes: I would add one more: The scientific argument over [Dangerous Anthropogenic Global Warming] is therefore about none of these things. Rather, it is almost entirely about three other, albeit related, issues. I would add that there is also disagreement over whether the net effect of significant global warming would be good or bad. In framing these disagreements, Dr. Carter starts with first scientific principles: Science deals with facts, experiments and numerical representations of the natural world around us. Science does not deal with emotions, beliefs or politics, but rather strives to analyse matters dispassionately and in an objective way, such that in consideration of a given set of facts two different practitioners might come to the same interpretation. To explain any given set of observations of the natural world, scientific method proceeds by erecting, first, the simplest possible explanation hypothesis that can explain the known facts. This simple explanation, termed the null hypothesis, then becomes the assumed interpretation until additional facts emerge that require modification of the initial hypothesis, or perhaps even invalidate it altogether. So, what are the tests to which we can subject the anthropogenic global warming theory to determine whether it has more explanatory power than the null hypothesis? What evidence can we use to test the DAGW hypothesis? Many different lines of evidence can be used to test the DAGW hypothesis. Here I have space to present just five, all of which are based upon real world empirical data. For more information, please read both Dr. Consider the following tests: Large increases in carbon dioxide have therefore not only failed to produce dangerous warming, but failed to produce any warming at all. In comparison, our best regional climate records show that over the last 10, years natural climate cycling has resulted in temperature highs up to at least 10 C warmer than today, at rates of warming up to 2. In other words, both the rate and magnitude of 20th century warming falls well within the envelope of natural climate change. In fact, the opposite relationship applies at all time scales. Temperature change precedes carbon dioxide change by about 5 months during the annual seasonal cycle, and by about years during ice age climatic cycling. In fact, no warming at all has occurred in either the atmosphere or the ocean for more than the last decade. The models are clearly faulty, and allocate too great a warming effect for the extra carbon dioxide technically, they are said to overestimate the climate sensitivity.

6: Bytes: KISS Principle and Occam's Razor

One is Reginald Anson, played by the devilishly handsome Hugh Grant. Apparently, the RAF needs to know to make sure their planes don't fly into it. The distinction between a hill and a mountain is apparently whether it exceeds one thousand feet.

Fourteenth-century Scholastic philosopher and controversial writer, born at or near the village of Ockham in Surrey, England, about 1285; died probably at Munich, about 1347. At an early age he entered the Order of St. Francis. Towards 1315 he went to Paris, where he may have had Scotus once more for a teacher. About 1317 he became a teacher magister at the University of Paris. During this portion of his career he composed his works on Aristotelean physics and on logic. In 1324 he resigned his chair at the university in order to devote himself to ecclesiastical politics. He was cited before the pontifical Court at Avignon in 1328, but managed to escape and join John of Jandun and Marsilius of Padua, who had taken refuge at the Court of Louis of Bavaria. It was to Louis that he made the boastful offer, "Tu me defendas gladio; ego te defendam calamo". In his controversial writings William of Ockham appears as the advocate of secular absolutism. He denies the right of the popes to exercise temporal power, or to interfere in any way whatever in the affairs of the Empire. In philosophy William advocated a reform of Scholasticism both in method and in content. The aim of this reformation movement in general was simplification. With this tendency towards simplification was united a very marked tendency towards skepticism a distrust, namely, of the ability of the human mind to reach certitude in the most important problems of philosophy. Thus, in the process of simplification he denied the existence of intentional species, rejected the distinction between essence and existence, and protested against the Thomistic doctrine of active and passive intellect. His skepticism appears in his doctrine that human reason can prove neither the immortality of the soul nor the existence, unity, and infinity of God. These truths, he teaches, are known to us by Revelation alone. In ethics he is a voluntarist, maintaining that all distinction between right and wrong depends on the will of God. The universal, he says, has no existence in the world of reality. Real things are known to us by intuitive knowledge, and not by abstraction. The universal is the object of abstractive knowledge. Therefore, the universal concept has for its object, not a reality existing in the world outside us, but an internal representation which is a product of the understanding itself and which "supposes" in the mind, for the things to which the mind attributes it, that is it holds, for the time being, the place of the things which it represents. It is the term of the reflective act of the mind. Hence the universal is not a mere word, as Roscelin taught, nor a sermo, as Abelard held, namely the word as used in the sentence, but the mental substitute for real things, and the term of the reflective process. For this reason Ockham has been called a "Terminist", to distinguish him from Nominalists and Conceptualists. He has, indeed, been called "the first Protestant". Nevertheless, he recognized in his polemical writings the authority of the Church in spiritual matters, and did not diminish that authority in any respect. Similarly, although he rejected the rational demonstration of several truths which are fundamental in the Christian system of theology, he held firmly to the same truths as matters of faith. His effort to simplify Scholasticism was no doubt well-intentioned, and the fact that simplification was the fashion in those days would seem to indicate that a reform was needed. The over-refined subtleties of discussion among the Scholastics themselves, the multiplication of "formalities" by the followers of Scotus, the undue importance attached by some of the Thomists to their interpretation of the intentional species, and the introduction of the abstruse system of terminology which exceeded the bounds of good taste and moderation--all these indicated that the period of decay of Scholasticism had set in. On the other hand, it must be said that, while his purpose may have been the best, and while his effort was directed towards correcting an abuse that really existed, Ockham carried his process of simplification too far, and sacrificed much that was essential in Scholasticism while trying to rid Scholasticism of faults which were incidental. About this page APA citation. In The Catholic Encyclopedia. Robert Appleton Company, The editor of New Advent is Kevin Knight. My email address is webmaster at newadvent. Dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

7: RUSSIA ISSUES "ELECTRONIC WARFARE WARNING" TO ISRAEL!

Occam's razor (also Ockham's razor; Latin: lex parsimoniae "law of parsimony") is a problem-solving principle attributed to William of Ockham (c.), who was an English Franciscan friar, scholastic philosopher, and theologian.

Check out these Occam Razor facts and learn how it can help you simplify your life and even avoid stress. Here are a few. Should you assume that a. A low-flying airplane is flying overhead or b. A spaceship is right above your roof and about to abduct you. Example 2 You get a notice saying that you over drafted your bank account. Your account was hacked and someone stole your money in an attempt to teach you a lesson about thriftiness or b. You miscalculated your payments and spent more than you had. Your mom must have sent you a gift because your birthday is next week or b. An ex-lover has finally decided to seek revenge and sent a dangerous package to your doorstep. Can you see how many of us use the principle in our everyday lives, even without realizing it? Instead, he is more credited with making the principle well known. Regardless, he has been forever linked to this philosophy which has long been a common thread between ancient and current philosophers. When you spend too much time wondering and worrying about certain situations, you add unnecessary strain to your day. By focusing on the most probable answer, you can stop worrying about things that will most likely never come to be. The most obvious and beneficial is the medical industry. It is less likely that the patient has a rare illness only found in a country halfway across the world. There are times when relying on it can lead to less than ideal results. While in the majority of situations and the majority of the time, the simplest answer is the right answer. But when the less than likely answer is actually the right one, issues can arise. While it can help you solve an issue or come to a conclusion that is more than likely correct, you should always remember that there are other possibilities.

8: Opposition to Occam's Razor | HowStuffWorks

Occam's razor is a bad name as it is a probabilistic tool: it makes choose the solution with the least potential improbabilities. Bad tool if it is used to remove other solutions (which are likely). It is the "economic knife" of the rational thinker.

In a prepared statement before the U. That is precisely the situation in which the UFO problem now lies. One of the principal results of my own recent intensive study of the UFO enigma is this: I have become convinced that the scientific community, not only in this country but throughout the world, has been casually ignoring as nonsense a matter of extraordinary scientific importance. Congressional Record, as well as on the Internet. While acknowledging that the overwhelming majority of UFO sightings undoubtedly had prosaic explanations, and that a great many questions about the phenomenon remained unanswered, McDonald succinctly summarized his conclusions regarding the most credible of the unexplained cases: Unlike McDonald, these persons have never studied UFOs and are, therefore, offering uninformed opinions—whether they choose to recognize this fact or not. In other words, conventional explanations—natural or man-made phenomena—undoubtedly account for all UFO sightings. But is the basic premise of simplicity-as-truth always valid, or is it flawed? Consider, for example, gravity. The explanation for it offered by Isaac Newton—whereby physical objects possess an attractive property, proportional to their mass, that draws them toward one another—appears simple, straightforward, and fits the observable facts. Then along came Albert Einstein. In the early 20th Century, Einstein created his own, one-man scientific revolution by introducing the twin theories of Special and General Relativity. Among other things, General Relativity postulates that space and time are an inextricably interconnected entity which is distorted, or curved, by the presence of physical objects. In fact, said Einstein, gravity is actually a function of curved space-time. Rather, the Earth created a curved depression in space-time and the apple merely took the path of least resistance by sliding down into it. Oh, by the way, Einstein also found that gravity bends light. One un-simple aspect of Special Relativity is the dilation of time, whereby it moves faster or slower, depending on whether it is being measured on a stationary or moving timepiece. Moreover, says Einstein, moving objects actually shorten in length in the direction they are traveling. And, last but not least, matter and energy are variations of the same thing and, sometimes, a handful of matter can release enough energy to destroy a city. All of this is simple stuff, right? No, it is not. In fact, the bizarre, mind-bending, often paradoxical principles advanced by the two relativistic theories still elude the intellectual grasp of most of humanity one hundred years after they were published. That said, those ideas certainly can not—by any stretch of the imagination—be described as simple, common sense answers to important questions. Another Quantum principle states that certain attributes of particles, including position, velocity, direction of movement, and spin, can not even be defined until they are observed. Physicists Gary and Kenny Felder write: Quantum mechanics says that—the photon really, genuinely, and importantly, does not have a specific location until we measure one. But another school of thought says, why should it make sense? That physical intuition was, and is, a great asset. Quantum mechanical laws generally only have measurable effects when applied to things that are too small to see, so we never evolved an understanding of them, so they seem bizarre. In fact, at roughly the same time that quantum mechanics first began to suggest that very small things defy our intuition, Einstein was proposing his special theory of relativity which shows that very fast things defy our intuition; and then his general theory of relativity, which concerns the odd behavior of very big things. If ever there was a counter-intuitive theory, hyperspace is it. Nevertheless this concept is rapidly gaining support among theorists whose work involves deciphering cosmic architecture and operation. As noted above, with rare exceptions, these persons have undertaken no research on the UFO phenomenon and, therefore, their reaction to the UFO topic is almost always a smoke screen—recognized or not—to hide the fact that they have not done their homework, and have no idea what they are talking about. Granted, simplistic sloganeering—Long Live Occam! One is tempted to conclude that by not investigating the UFO phenomenon—prior to making unequivocal pronouncements about it—many skeptics are attempting to

avoid the potential threat to their own worldview, which might arise should they actually research the subject and unexpectedly discover that things are not as previously assumed. As regards UFO sightings, a skeptic will assert that an atmospheric mirage or exotic military aircraft is the simpler, more likely explanation for what appeared to the observer to be an alien spaceship. Since the probability of such a thing is near zero, the reasoning goes, so is the likelihood that an alien spaceship was actually sighted by a human observer. Consequently, the simplest-explanation strategy as applied to UFO sightings is almost always fallacious because, although the debunkers would have you believe otherwise, an unacknowledged, subjective point-of-view usually taints the basic premise of their argument. If the simpler hypothesis does not fit the facts, it too must be discarded. Sometimes, you just have to go lookâ€”and you discover that the universe is actually much richer and more complicated than your imagination. He offered these comments: I find nothing major to quarrel with. I agree thoroughly with these strong points: Extraordinary Encounters at Nuclear Weapons Sites, which is available at my website, www. Unless you want to pay scalper-rates for it on Amazon. As I readily acknowledged in my book, my research material does not qualify as scientific data. The testimony offered by my ex-military sources is simply anecdotal evidence, often reluctantly revealed, by dozens of highly-reliable individuals whose professional responsibilities had inadvertently and unexpectedly placed them in a position to experience the UFO phenomenon within an environment inaccessible to most persons. Those who have not worked with nuclear weaponsâ€”which is to say the vast majority of usâ€”have obviously had no opportunity to witness UFO activity in such a highly-restricted setting. Therefore, it seems to me, whether one is a scientist or a layperson, we should all at least listen to what these persons have to say. To automatically dismiss their now-numerous, detailed accounts of UFO encounters at nuclear weapons sites as mere fantasies, or fabrications, is to suggest that those who held the fate of the entire planet in their hands during the Cold War were dangerously demented or otherwise untrustworthy. Surely, this was not the case. Felder, Gary and Kenny. Robert Kirshner to Robert Hastings, confirmation of quotation in personal communication, June 2, 7. Henry Bauer to Robert Hastings, R.

9: Minutes Before Six: Don't Ask, If You Don't Want To Know

Occam's Razor is like circumstantial evidence - it can seem to point strongly in one direction, but change your point of view, and it can point in a different direction entirely.

Leave a comment Los Angeles Rams By Dave Archibald The Los Angeles Rams showed the most dramatic offensive turnaround in the history of the NFL in , more than doubling their point total to as they jumped from the 32nd-ranked offense to number one. They show no signs of slowing down in , rising to with a victory over the Minnesota Vikings on Thursday night. Pundits have been quick to credit rookie head coach Sean McVay, who brought innovative offensive schemes from Washington, and writers elected him Coach of the Year. McVay does deserve a lot of credit, certainly, for bringing elements that maximized the ability of quarterback Jared Goff and running back Todd Gurley , but his addition was far from the only change in LA. With Goff and tight end Tyler Higbee establishing starting roles in their second seasons, the Rams featured a whopping eight new starters out of 11 spots on offense: A position-by-position look shows that not only was the offense completely overhauled, the new pieces were major improvements. There is no comparison between the quality of talent the team employed in their first season in Los Angeles and their second. Departing Greg Robinson , the second overall pick in , fetched only a sixth-round pick in trade; he struggled in six starts with the Lions before going on injured reserve and is currently a backup with the Cleveland Browns. Tim Barnes was picked up and cut by the San Francisco 49ers and is currently out of the league. John Sullivan was a key piece up front blocking for Adrian Peterson in Minnesota before injury-plagued campaigns in and The Rams bet on a bounce-back from a healthy Sullivan and were rewarded with the ninth-best C performance according to NFL Cody Wichmann was benched down the stretch for third-round pick Jamon Brown ; he has spent the last two seasons on practice squads. The OL was a problem in , but general manager Les Snead had a pretty simple solution: There was some risk in adding year-old Whitworth and year Sullivan, especially with the latter coming off two-injury plagued campaigns, but the team stayed remarkably healthy in Football Outsiders ranked the Rams the healthiest team in the NFL according to their Adjusted Games Lost metric â€” an underrated factor in their extraordinary season. Britt had never cracked the yard barrier prior to the season, but he eclipsed his previous career-high in targets by a whopping He subsequently disappointed in Cleveland and was cut after only 18 receptions and yards in nine games; since then he washed out in New England and is currently without a team. The Rams traded a second-round pick and cornerback E. Watkins signed a big deal with the Kansas City Chiefs in the offseason, while the Rams went in a different direction by trading for speedster Brandin Cooks , who already has yards in just four games. He was demoted to situational duty in and caught only 13 passes, though he did chip in with 59 rushes for yards, and is currently a gadget player for a struggling Dallas Cowboys offense. Lance Kendricks has been a useful player but was stretched as a starter and currently plays a complementary role with the Green Bay Packers. This is probably the weak link in the high-powered O, with neither Tyler Higbee and Gerald Everett emerging as of yet. One element McVay brought to the party is using Gurley much more in the passing game. Gurley had 64 catches for yards and 0 touchdowns total in his first two years, but in led the Rams with 64 catches, adding yards and six touchdowns. Two elements become clear in this analysis: One, the departed players Britt, Quick, Austin, Kendricks , despite superficially competent numbers in , were not ideal starters and no longer have NFL starting jobs. And two, the offense is much more balanced now, integrating the running back more and getting far more production out of the Z and slot positions. This gives McVay tremendous flexibility to attack any weakness a defense may have. The Quarterback Goff started the final seven games in and turned in one of the most dismal statistical performances by a rookie quarterback in NFL history. It is clear from the above analysis that the offense lacked in overall talent. It was a bad rookie campaign, magnified by an almost total dearth of supporting talent. It is not uncommon for rookie quarterbacks to struggle, however, before showing major improvement in year two. Alex Smith threw one touchdown pass and 11 interceptions as a rookie; his ratio improved to a still poor McVay put Goff in better positions to succeed than Jeff Fisher did, and the surrounding talent was night and day. But part of the credit goes to Goff, too, who was talented enough to go 1

overall in and showed the kind of improvement that many players do from their rookie season to their second year. He made smart hires throughout his staff, retaining special teams coordinator John Fassel and adding veterans Wade Phillips defensive coordinator , Aaron Kromer offensive line coach , and Greg Olson quarterbacks coach in ; now offensive coordinator. But assigning him total credit for the turnaround in LA is a bridge too far. There were lots of reasons Los Angeles improved beyond McVay. As a result, they jumped from 23rd in average starting field position to first – a difference of more than five yards. They also had six non-offensive touchdowns in after only one in McVay likely deserves some credit for this, but Wade Phillips, one of the most effective defensive coordinators of the last 25 years, deserves a lot, too. A Repeat Story The truth is that the Rams saw this same story about a decade ago, only in reverse. They skidded a bit in , but re-emerged in with quarterback Marc Bulger , going Then things fell apart: Did Bulger just lose it overnight at the age of 30? There are many potential explanations, so it is hard to nail things down to one cause. Bulger was one of the top-five most-sacked quarterbacks every season from through , and suffered injuries to his thumb, shoulder, back, and leg that contributed to an early decline. Martz, one of the most respected offensive architects of his era, was fired after the Rams started slowly in , and Bulger dealt with four different offensive coordinators in his last five seasons. Star left tackle Orlando Pace spent on injured reserve and left after Receivers Torry Holt and Isaac Bruce , one of the best duos ever, started to decline about this time, and neither was on the team when rolled around. Bulger went from one of the best supporting casts in the league to one of the worst, and while those changes were gradual, the performance ultimately fell off a cliff. Simple –! Or Lazy? In our quest for the simplest solution, we ignore that most dramatic changes have more than one explanation. Football is a complex game with 11 players on each side and many coaches and other players involved during the week and on game day. When teams are terrible, as the Rams were, there are usually a lot of bad things going on, and when teams are good, as the Rams were, there are usually a lot of good things. McVay brought a new scheme, new assistants, and a new energy and attitude to a flailing franchise. The Rams replaced eight underperformers on offense with new upgrades, in some cases considerable upgrades. The team had terrific injury luck despite some age and injury concerns among their new additions. And Goff took a step forward in his second NFL seasons, realizing the talent that made him the first overall pick the year before. McVay was the reason. To me, the reasoning I outlined here is pretty simple, too: McVay was a part of that, but so were wholesale changes all across the offense. They got rid of their weakest players and replaced them with better ones.

12. Morphology of pancreatic islets : a time course of pre-diabetes in Zucker fatty rats Petra Augstein a The Chekhov play: a new interpretation Combinatorics and computer science Georgian poetry, 1916-1917. Parenting Teens With Love And Logic (Updated and Expanded Edition) The waves of Atlantis Introduction to teradata database Make Money Self-Publishing May 1862 to December 1862 The Italian Economy The baptists in Hunslet in the late nineteenth century Uncovering Crime (Research study Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure) Surprising Ways God Answers Prayer On the estimation of underwater optical communication system performance Carving seasonal decorations for windows door frames Baseball Register 1999 (Baseball Register) The New Territories and its future A sunny morning notes Battle of Shiloh church. Political games: Americas on a losing streak Accounting: What the Numbers Mean w Student Study Resource Everson Ceramic National 2000 Mental Health Screening and Assessment in Juvenile Justice What a Dollar Has to Tell You Lo Que Un Dolar Tiene Para Decirte Elements of short story worksheet Biological Science 1 Hungarian into English and back V. 1. Ordinary differential equations. Laws relating to the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma, 1890 to 1914. V. 17. Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah. Reel 12. Bros-Broz Peace, between the United States of America and Great Britain Exponent laws worksheet grade 9 A diary without dates All Star Comics Archives, Vol. 4 Electricity in motion Technology : the promises of communicative capitalism Selections from the writings of Alfred Quimby. Mechanisms of evolution worksheet Circuit theory handwritten notes