



What is Life?

The Philosophical Society - Members' Weekend, 2020

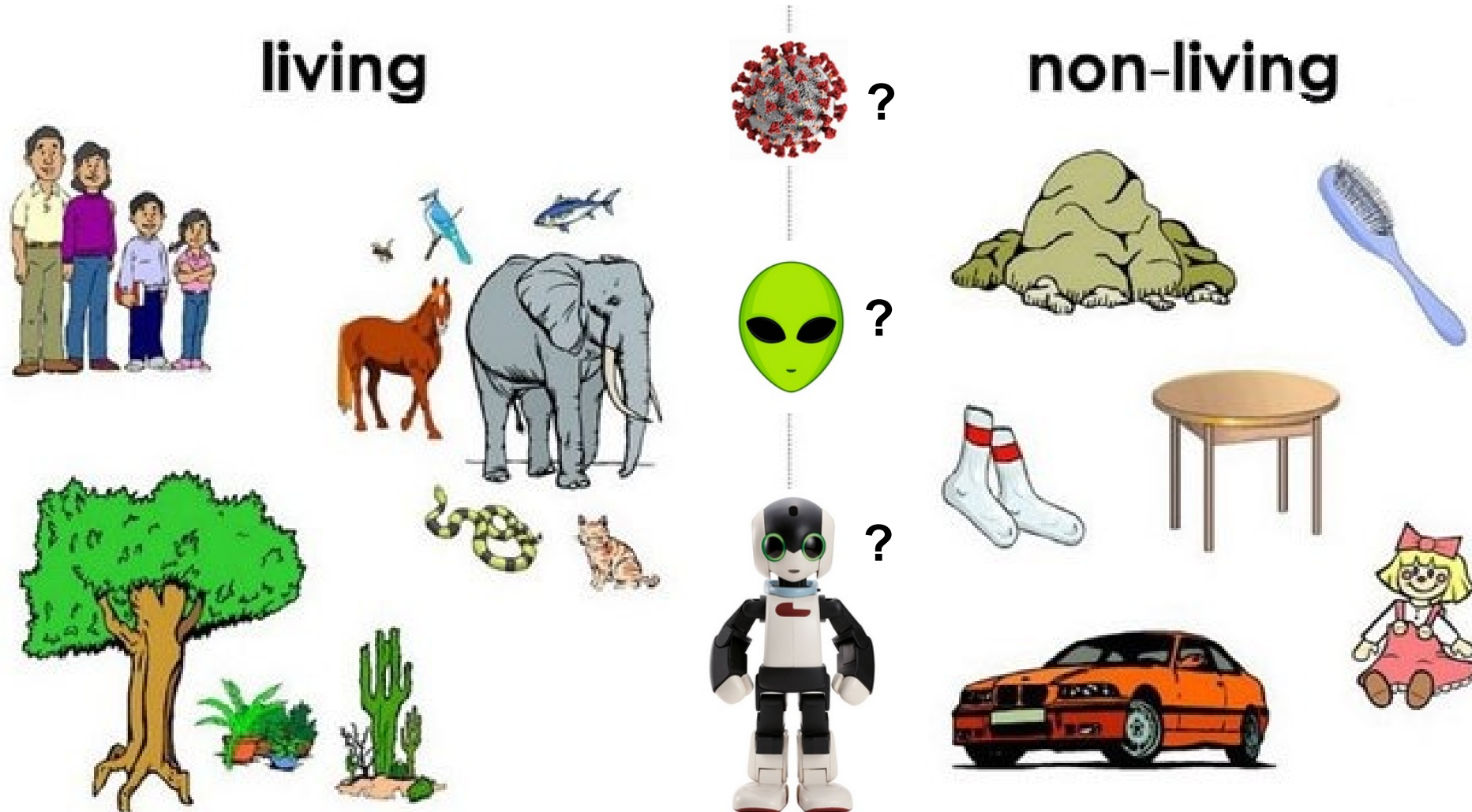
Introduction to “What is Life?”

Tim Bollands

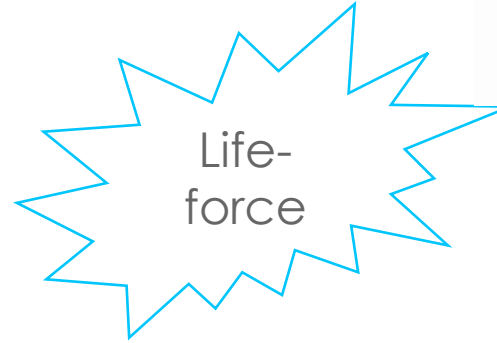
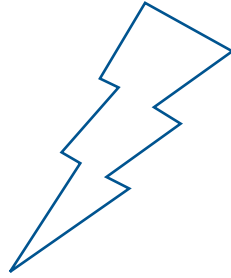


What is Life?

What is the distinction between living things and non-living things?



Dualism, Spiritualism & Vitalism



Physiology & Biology



A physical machine which...

- Grows
- Eats
- Moves
- Responds
- Excretes
- Reproduces
- ...

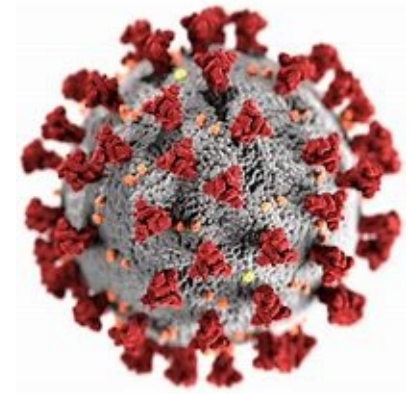


Physiology & Biology



A chemical system involving :

- Nutrition
- Respiration
- Homeostasis
- Metabolism
- Excretion
- Reproduction
- ...

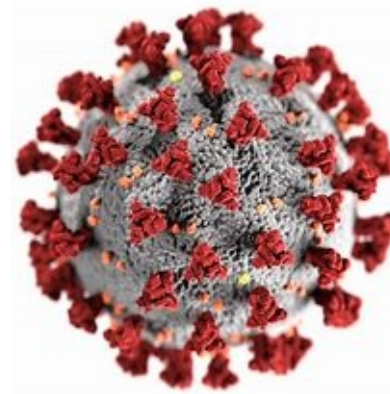


Physiology & Biology

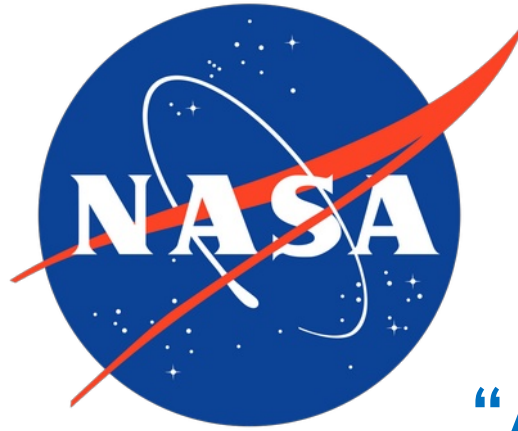


A biochemical machine which ...

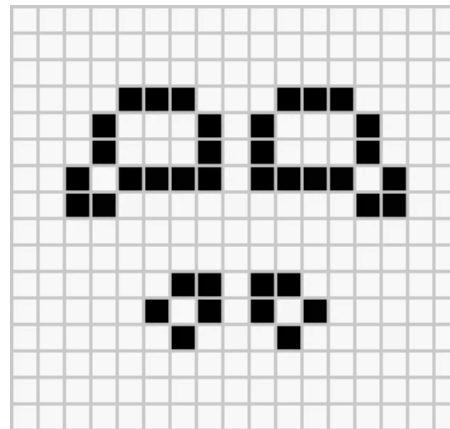
- is Carbon-based
- has Cells
- uses water
- has DNA
- has ribosomes
- ...



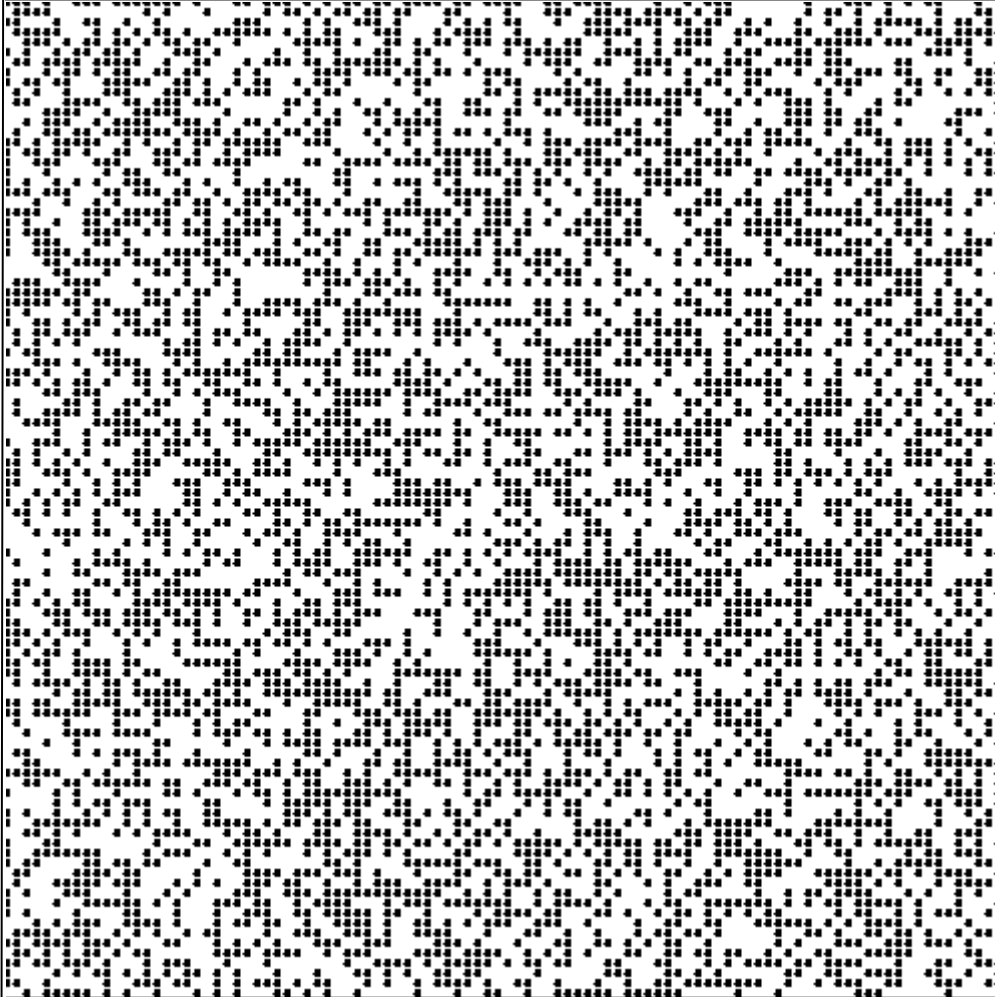
Life on other planets ?



~~chemical~~
“A self-sustaining system
capable of Darwinian[^] evolution”



Self-sustaining Patterns ?



John Conway's 'Game of Life'



PhilSoc Members' Weekend, 2020

Saturday

- 10:55 **It's Life, Jim, but not as we know it** – *Mike Arnautov*
- 11:45 **The Nation as a Living Organism** – *Gordon Nichols*
- 1:30 **What is Life? God only knows** – *Jeff Morris*
- 2:20 **Lessons from Schrödinger and Pross** – *Tomy Duby and Stewart Fisher*
- 4:00 **Life as a Flow of Information through Time** – *Martin Jacoby*
- 4.50 **Autopoiesis and the Complexity of Life** – *Bob Clarke*

Sunday

- 11.05 **Life: Facts, Fictions and Leaps of Imagination** – *Fauzia Rahman-Greasley*
- 11.55 **Biogenesis: All Life comes from Life** – *Tim Bollands*
- 2:00 **Panel Discussion** – *all 8 speakers (chaired by Marianne Talbot)*



THANK YOU

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